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The Canadian INDIA TIMES

(The national voice of Indo-Canadians)

Soviet atomic power unit for India

New Delhi (IBS) - The Soviet Union will build Asia's largest atomic power plant in India, expected to be more than six times the size of the US-aided Tarapur plant, near Bombay, which is presently facing the problem of supplies of enriched uranium.

In order to help India attain the much delayed targets of atomic power development, the Soviet Union has offered to meet even the rupee resources needed for the plant expected to be situated somewhere in the western region, possibly in Southern Gujarat. The rupee resources required for civil construction and other purposes will be from the accumulated rupee funds that the Soviet Union has in this country.

Although the Soviet Union has undertaken to increase its co-operation in a large area of economic development, the atomic power plant is perhaps the most outstanding feature of the series of agreements signed by Morarji Desai and Alexei Kosygin during the Soviet Prime Minister's recent visit.

The Soviet Prime Minister A.N. Kosygin with Prime Minister Morarji Desai on arrival at Palam Airport in Delhi.

"Fictitious" relatives cost millions

Ottawa - The Government of Canada is being cheated out of millions of dollars of tax revenue by taxpayers who invent needy foreign relatives, Revenue Minister Anthony Abbott said.

Taxation officials are checking to make sure every dependent is legitimate.

Investigations in Vancouver showed that $268,000 of $364,000 in foreign dependency claims were false. In Toronto, one out of every three claims was fraudulent.

Progressive Conservative William Clarke, who represents Vancouver asked Mr. Abbott in the Commons how the Government is dealing with the "rent-a-relative" racket. He said 1,000 of 2,300 dependency claims in his city could not be verified by taxation officials.

Mr. Abbott said the problem is serious.

The racket works in a number of ways:

Some taxpayers invent non-existent relatives attesting to their support of these dependents.

Some have relatives abroad but need no money from Canada.

Some have needy relatives abroad, but never send them a penny. They still claim dependents for tax purposes.

The problem appeared to be particularly blatant among immigrants from India.

Nurse arrested at customs

New Delhi (FOC) - An Indian Nurse who arrived from Saudi Arabia in the first week of March at the Bombay airport was arrested for carrying contraband goods worth Rs. 33,000.00 says a report.

Her arrest has been an educative experience to the customs officials. She disclosed to them that metal wrapped in carbon paper cannot be detected by the X-ray machines.

Mrs. Achiamma Allummoth Verghese nee Mrs. Achiamma Thomas of Venmoni in Kerala initially said that she had nothing to declare and made a bid to escape. The customs officials got suspicious and a search was ordered of her baggage and her person.

The items seized included 215 gms gold jewellery, 12 gold sovereigns and two automatic wrist watches. The goods wrapped in carbon paper were concealed in the false bottom of her handbag. About half a dozen gold sovereigns were stitched on to her underslip.

It may be recalled that a new procedure for speedy clearance of passengers at the customs in major international airports in India was introduced in January this year. The procedure is based on the principle of least checks based on trust.

A passenger who has nothing to declare can walk out through the green channel and even at the red channel the checks are limited to the list produced by the passenger.

India's "no" to Canada

New Delhi (IBS) - Canada's Deputy Under Secretary of State for foreign affairs Klaus Goldschleg concluded his three-day discussions here with a call on External Affairs Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee recently.

During his stay here, Klaus is understood to have reopened the question of Indo-Canadian nuclear cooperation which was unilaterally terminated by Ottawa in 1974 after India's peaceful underground nuclear explosion.

In view of this Canadian attitude, India is understood to have made it clear that New Delhi was no longer interested in cooperation with Ottawa in the nuclear field.

Turban okayed in Canadian army

Ottawa - The Canadian Armed Forces will follow the lead of armies in the United States, Britain and India by allowing Sikhs to enlist without having to cut their hair or their beards.

The decision followed a complaint of religious discrimination from Ek Ong Kar Singh Khalsa of Toronto, who was told he could not join the militia unless he was prepared to conform to military dress regulations.

Mr. Khalsa could not meet the regulations because the Sikh religion requires men to wear turbans and to leave their hair and beards uncut.

Discussion between the Canadian Human Rights Commission and the armed forces resulted in the change. Enlisted Sikhs will be allowed to wear green turbans with regimental badges.

A commission spokesman said yesterday in an interview that Sikhs could still face difficulties if required to wear steel helmets in combat roles.

"We've settled so that he can enroll," the spokesman said, "but we haven't settled what will happen in every situation down the line."

Nutan bags filmfare award

Bombay (IBS) - Nutan, one of the top stars of yester-years, has won her fifth filmfare award for best acting in "Main Tulsi Tere Aangan Ki" while Amitabh Bachan received the best actor award for his double role in "Don". He won the award for the second successive year.

Satyajit Ray was named the best director for "Shatranj Ke Khelari" his first film in Hindustani. The picture received a second recognition with the award for best supporting actor going Lucknow-born but now London-based Saeed Jaffrey.

Reena Roy got the best supporting actress award for her portrayal of a divorced woman pining for the affection of her son in "Apnapan".

Other winners are: Devan Verma - best comedian in "Chor Ke Ghar Chor," Dinesh Thakur, actor turned writer, for the story of "Ghar", best play-back singers: Asha Bhosle and Mishore Kumar (both for "Don"), best music: Laxmikant Pyarelal for their score in "Satyam Shivam Sunderam", best lyric: Anand Bakshi ("Apnapan").

Child artiste Raju received a special award for an outstanding performance in "Kitaab."

Kosygin comes and goes

New Delhi (IBS) - The signing of as many as five agreements and protocols covering a wide ground was the major highlight of the recently-concluded visit of Prime Minister Kosygin to India.

Two of these, the crude oil versus rice trade deal and the gift of some equipment for the Suratgarh state farm are of a specific nature and come into operation at once. The others are conceived in a general and long-term frame and will unfold in due course in specific arrangements which have yet to be negotiated.

Taken together, however, these constitute an assurance that both sides are committed to preserve, strengthen and enlarge mutually beneficial relations in economic, technological and cultural fields.

For cultivating relations with a centrally planned system such as the USSR, agreements and protocols of this kind are of considerable importance. But it would be unrealistic to think that they can, by themselves, resolve all the problems.

The long-term agreements signed on the present occasion do not, for example, appear to have come to grips with the real problems concerning Indo-Soviet trade and economic cooperation.

Where is the answer to be found for the comparative shrinkage of the range and quality of technology inputs which can be supplied and profitably used by either side?

Where, again, is the answer to the problem of the running gap in trade exchange persistently in favour of India, which is difficult to adjust under a system of balanced trade in non-convertible payment agreements?

The level and dimensions of economic relations between India and the Soviet Union have admittedly touched a plateau and have indeed outgrown the arrangements which were adequate enough earlier. The need now is to set a fresh and a fundamentally more effective framework in tune with the levels of development of the economies of India and the Soviet Union and their complementarity.

POLITICAL ISSUES

It will be ridiculous for anyone to suggest, as some in America have done, that Mr. Kosygin has pushed India into endorsing the Soviet demand for an "immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal" of the Chinese troops from Vietnam.

Morarji Desai had doubtless followed his call for the withdrawal of Chinese troops from Vietnam last month by a similar plea in respect of Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea (Cambodia). But he never linked the two. If that could have left some room for doubt regarding New Delhi's stand, it should have been dispelled by Atal Behari Vajpayee's branding of Chinese action in Vietnam as "aggression", especially because he has not used this expression in respect of the Vietnamese action in Kampuchea.

India has always taken the position that whatever the merits or demerits of a case, no country should be allowed to reap the fruits of aggression. Thus the demand for an "unconditional and total" Chinese withdrawal from Vietnam has been implicit in the Indian stand all along.

Peking (and same in USA) will be making a mistake if it rushes to the conclusion that this country has ganged up with the Soviet Union against China. But it will also be making a mistake if it fails to draw the appropriate lesson which is that Indo-Soviet friendship remains firm and that New Delhi does not seek normal relations with China at the cost either of those ties or of some other country in the region.

India has reasons to be pleased with Kosygin's visit. It has widened the scope for Indo-Soviet cooperation, especially in the economic field.

Funds for overseas investments

Bombay (IBS) - The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has formulated an overseas investment finance scheme for financing overseas investment by promoters of joint ventures abroad, whether by way of export of engineering goods, machinery or capital equipment or in cash against their contribution towards equity.

Under the scheme, which has become effective from March 15, finance will be made available by way of term export credits by the IDBI itself or in participation with eligible commercial banks. Such assistance would be repayable through know-how fees, royalties and dividends receivable on the investment and supplemented wherever necessary, by the borrowers' other income or assets.

No maximum or minimum size of the credit is stipulated. The maximum repayment period, including the initial moratorium, will not normally exceed ten years depending on the circumstances of each use.

Interest will be levied at the normal pending rate of the IDBI, at present 11 per cent per annum. There will be commitment charge of one per cent.

Indian dance in Australia

New Delhi (IBS) - Eighty Australian girls and boys dance to the tune of Indian folk music at the Asian Dance and Music Centre in Sydney.

They also enact "The Ramayana" in dance, understanding every nuance of hand gestures and facial expression as they go along.

The well-known Krishna Nair and his dancerine wife, Shakuntala, began this school of Indian dance in Sydney in 1976 and since then have helped their students to give more than a hundred performances all over Australia.

They have choreographed "The Ramayana", a short piece on the "Krishna Leela", and also learned some popular folk and classical Indian dances.

This husband-wife team has travelled all over Britain, Burma, Fiji, Australia and New Zealand, giving umpteen solo and group performances.

In 1972, they were selected to start the Indian Culture Centre in Fiji and in 1973 to dance at the opening of the Grand Sydney Opera in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II.

Nurses to go abroad

New Delhi (IBS) - The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in a report to Parliament, has asked the Health Ministry to check the "drain of nurses to foreign countries" and to ensure that the country is not deprived of experienced nurses. It said it was no consolation to be told that fresh nurses were recruited to make up for the loss of experienced ones.

PAC's remarks followed the Health Ministry's reply that the exodus of nurses for service abroad "cannot altogether be prevented." The Ministry also said that despite substantial improvement in pay scales and in working conditions "there is a gap between the emoluments paid in foreign countries and the salary earned within the country" and therefore a large number of nurses seek employment abroad. 783 nurses resigned from the three Government-run hospitals in Delhi in one year.

RSS drill ban

Bangalore (IBS) - The Karnataka Government has decided to ban the use of public grounds and school premises by the RSS and such other organisation for holding drills and other activities, on the lines of action earlier taken by Uttar Pradesh and Kerala Governments.

The Cabinet also constituted a two-member committee to examine the feasibility of fines and jail terms

Priest murdered, nuns attacked

New Delhi: At Mokameh near Patna in Bihar state the Catholic Church and nuns had been the target of attacks recently. The convent also was attacked.

This was not an isolated incident. Other places from where such reports of attack on the minority community, particularly Christians, came are: Basauni (Monghyr), Birlapur and Jehanabad. There are Christian hospitals and schools at all these places.

It appears that an anti-Christian movement is brewing in many parts of the country supported by fanatic Hindus and communal elements. In Arunachal Pradesh Christians were being persecuted for being Christians in the Secular India. A Bill has been passed by the State Legislature against conversions. The Bill does not recognise Christianity as an indigenous religion although it existed in India since AD 52 during the time of St. Thomas, the Apostle.

The alleged murder of a Jesuit priest at Mokameh in Patna and the attacks on Christian priests, nuns and institutions in Bihar were raised in the Lok Sabha by the Christian M.P. from Kerala, A.C. George.

He expressed concern over the rising incidents of crime against Christians in the country, particularly in Bihar and sought an immediate inquiry by the government.

Fr. Francis Martinsek was murdered in Mokameh, Mr. George alleged. Another priest who was with him, Fr. Thomas, was shot at, but escaped. Fr. Felex Farrel was tied up, beaten and the mission property was attacked. Fr. Mann was shot at and injured.

The government has not been able to bring the culprit to book so far.

Highlighting the seriousness of the situation, Mr. George said that about 4000 Christians from different parts of the state marched in silent protest to the Secretariate in Patna. Yet the authorities did not take prompt action, he complained.

Charan gives small reliefs

New Delhi, March 26 (UNI) - Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Charan Singh announced modifications in his taxation proposals totalling Rs. 31.45 crores, but refused to withdraw any of the major imposts proposed in the Union Budget of 1979-80.

Replying to the 15-hour general discussion on the budget in the Lok Sabha (Lower House) Charan Singh withdrew the recent increase in excise duty on confectionary, cocoa powder, chocolates and biscuits to demolish the charge that he was "callous" towards children in this International Year of the Child.

He also reduced the duty on low-priced toilet soaps, household and laundry soap, tooth-paste, tooth-brushes and matches produced in the mechanised sector.

The Finance Minister also raised the exemption limit for duty on footwear to Rs. 15 per paid and drastically reduced the new levy imposed on vegetable non-essential oils imported by the State Trading Corporation.

As a result of the new reductions, the Budget deficit would go up from Rs. 1,355 crores to Rs. 1,368.45 crores. But Mr. Charan Singh maintained that neither the new imposts nor the big deficit would push up prices.

He said the new economic strategy outlined in the budget was Gandhian in approach and sought to improve the living conditions of the poorer section and reduce disparities.

Cancer and urine therapy

New Delhi, March 24 (UNI) - Urine therapy is giving good results in the treatment of cancer according to some doctors, P. Vekatasubbish told the Lok Sabha (Lower House).

Mr. Vekatasubbaiah, who said his brother was a blood cancer patient, told the house that this therapy was suggested to him first by the Prime Minister.

The member asked Health Minister Rabi Ray whether the Government would consider giving sufficient propaganda to this therapy to cure blood cancer. "I am making this suggestion in all seriousness", he said.

All languages in Lok Sabha

New Delhi (IBs) - A limited use of all languages listed in the Constitution would be permitted during the question hour in the Lok Sabha, Speaker K.S. Hegde announced. Hitherto the practice has been to use only Hindi and English during the question hour while members can speak in any language during the rest of the day.

The Speaker thus implemented the recommendation of a Committee headed by Defence Minister Jagjivan Ram set up last year after an independent member from Tamil Nadu had insisted on questioning a Minister in Tamil

Cloth-for-work scheme

Bombay (IBS) - A worker of a textile mill will get cloth at ex-mill price for resale.

Announcing this, the Union Industry Minister George Fernandes, said the scheme would provide an additional source of income to the worker.

He was taling to newsmen here after meeting textile manufacturers to discuss the cloth price situation and the general state of the industry.

The National Textile Corporation was already giving cloth on credit to the educated unemployed by arranging a loan of Rs. 1,000 through banks. The current target was to cover about 10,000 jobless people under the scheme, he said.

The scheme would now be extended to the already employed textile workers also.

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In order to help the recent immigrants to settle down with minimum discomfort, The Canadian India Times has decided to send the paper free for three months to all landed immigrants who have stayed in Canada or USA FOR ONLY LESS THAN TWO MONTHS. We expect to publish several articles under news items that will be of special interest to new immigrants.

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COUNTRY FROM WHICH CAME.....

OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND.....

Indian to be

New Delhi (IBS) - The ruling Labour group in Hounslow Council in West London has nominated an Indian member Jagdish Ra Sharma to be the borough's nex Mayor. Sharma's nomination wil almost certainly be approved by the full Council at its annual general meeting in a few weeks time.

Having from Jullundur, 44/yea

Punjab mir

Chandigarh (UNI) - Punjal Revenue Minister Jiwan Singh Umranagal has submitted hi resignation from the state cab net.

Mr. Umranagal, who is Genera Secretary of the Shiromani Gurd wara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) announced that he wa

Mode for 'Am

New Delhi (IBS) - The Centr Government has cleared a pro POSAL BY Birla-run Hindusta Motors, manufacturers of Amb assador cars, for technical collab oration with a British firm fo updating its technology.

Hindustan Motors thus will b able to improve both the engin as well as the body resulting higher efficiency and better look The total cost of the foreig collaboration proposal is said be Rs. 110 million.

This is the second forei collaboration proposal approv by the Janata Government for automotive sector, the first bei a similar one by Escorts for manufacture of motor cycl under licence from Jantaha Japan.

While the offer of forei collaboration is open to all the manufacturers, with a view up-dating their technology, other three car manufacturers Premier Automobiles, Standa Motors and Sunrise Automobi - have not come forward with firm proposals.

Yadav to

Lucknow, March 24 (UNI) - Ra Naresh Yadav, who lost the Utt Pradesh Chief Ministership la month, may take up as Deputy successor Banarasi Das, kno ledgable circles indicated.

Mr. Banarsi Das, has reporte offered him a berth in ministry which Mr. Yadav understood to have accepted.

Congress wa

New Delhi (IBS) - The Congre faction led by Mrs. Indira Gand is sounding its members on suggestion that Sanjay Gand should re-enter politics and le its fight against the RSS. Sanj had announced his retireme from politics immediately af the Congress Party's defeat March 1977 Lok Sabha poll.

The Party headquarters sent the Press Tuesday, March 13, announcement by Dr. S.C. Va convenor of the doctors panel the Congress (I) requesting M Gandhi to "allow Sanjay Gand to re-appear in Indian politics.

According to Vats, "it is o possible under his leadership t a strong Congress can emerge combat the growing militant fo

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Indian to be mayor in U.K.

New Delhi (IBS) - The ruling Labour group in Hounslow Council in West London has nominated an Indian member Jagdish Rai Sharma to be the borough's next Mayor. Sharma's nomination will almost certainly be approved by the full Council at its annual general meeting in a few weeks time.

Hailing from Jullundur, 44/year old Sharma, the only Indian-born member of Hounslow Council, was first elected in 1974 and re-elected last year. He teaches mathematics at a school in neighbouring Southall where a quarter of the pupils are of Indian origin.

Hounslow's Indian community numbers about 25,000 out of a total population of 200,000.

Punjab minister resigns

Chandigarh, (UNI) - Punjab Revenue Minister Jiwan Singh Umranagal has submitted his resignation from the state cabinet.

Mr. Umranagal, who is General Secretary of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) announced that he was quitting the cabinet to contest the SGPC election as an Ordinary Sikh.

Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal told newsmen that he would take a decision on the resignation shortly. He lauded the step taken by Mr. Umranagal, saying he had set a good convention.

Model change for 'Ambassador'

New Delhi (IBS) - The Central Government has cleared a PROPOSAL BY Birla-run Hindustan Motors, manufacturers of Ambassador cars, for technical collaboration with a British firm for updating its technology.

Hindustan Motors thus will be able to improve both the engine as well as the body resulting in higher efficiency and better looks.

The total cost of the foreign collaboration proposal is said to be Rs. 110 million.

This is the second foreign collaboration proposal approved by the Janata Government for the automotive sector, the first being a similar one by Escorts for the manufacture of motor cycles under licence from Jamaha of Japan.

While the offer of foreign collaboration is open to all the car manufacturers, with a view to up-dating their technology, the other three car manufacturers - Premier Automobiles, Standard Motors and Sunrise Automobiles - have not come forward with any firm proposals.

New Delhi (IBS) - Industries Minister George Fernandez told the Rajya Sabha that the Government was studying prospects of restructuring the entire automobile industry in which there had been no new technological input in the last 30 years.

Fernandez admitted that about 40 per cent of the automotive products were made up of taxes and excise duties. (As a result of fresh levies imposed by Finance Minister Charan Singh, the price of a Hindustan "Ambassador" will go up by Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 45,000).

At the same time, he said, the production of commercial vehicles was on the increase; during the current financial year it was expected to reach 60,000 from last year's production of 42,000. Projection for the ensuing year was 100,00.

The Minister said that Hindustan Motors had produced 300 passenger cars with diesel engines.

Yadav to be deputy CM

Lucknow, March 24 (UNI) - Ram Naresh Yadav, who lost the Uttar Pradesh Chief Ministership last month, may take up as Deputy to successor Banarsi Das, knowledgable circles indicated.

Mr. Banarsi Das, has reportedly offered him a berth in the ministry which Mr. Yadav is understood to have accepted.

It was further indicated that the former Chief Minister was likely to be inducted as Deputy Chief Minister of the state.

Meanwhile, in pursuance of his effoets to have a "broad based" ministry Mr. Das also met prominent dissident leader S.P. Malaviya and was understood to have invited him to join his cabinet.

Congress wants Sanjay back

New Delhi (IBS) - The Congress faction led by Mrs. Indira Gandhi is sounding its members on a suggestion that Sanjay Gandhi should re-enter politics and lead its fight against the RSS. Sanjay had announced his retirement from politics immediately after the Congress Party's defeat in March 1977 Lok Sabha poll.

The Party headquarters sent to the Press Tuesday, March 13, an announcement by Dr. S.C. Vats, convenor of the doctors panel of the Congress (I) requesting Mrs. Gandhi to "allow Sanjay Gandhi to re-appear in Indian politics."

According to Vats, "it is only possible under his leadership that a strong Congress can emerge to combat the growing militant force of the RSS which poses a serious threat to all norms of democracy."

CANADIAN INTEREST IN DEFENCE PLANES

New Delhi (IBS) - Defence Minister Jagjiwan Ram and a visiting Canadian Minister have discussed possible Canadian interest in meeting India's defence transport aircraft requirements. Minister of State for Defence Sher Singh, has informed the Lok Sabha. He, however, denied that any specific issue such as joint ventures in the aircraft industry was discussed with the Canadian Minister of National Revenue and Small Business when he called on Jagjiwan Ram.

Elders back special courts bill

New Delhi, (UNI) - The Special Courts Bill, seeking for speedy trial of emergency offences, underwent major changes as it emerged from the opposition dominated Rajya Sabha.

The two Communist Party of India (CPI) and Congress sponsored amendments, which the Government conceded in the controversial Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha (Lower House) widened the scope of the Bill originally restricted to the trial of offences committed during the emergency period.

Under the amended Bill, special courts could deal with offences committed during the period other than emergency as well and the Government will have no say in the constitution of the proposed courts.

MRS. PANDIT'S MEMOIRS

New Delhi (IBS) - The memoirs of Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit - "Scope for Happiness" - will be released in New York on May Day and its British edition in London a few weeks thereafter. The cheerful title of the memoirs is reported to be a phrase from a poem much liked by Jawaharlal Nehru, her brother.

Congress (I) members, who pressed for division on almost all the clauses of the Bill, walked out of the House a little before the Bill was finally put to vote.

The House adopted the Bill by voice vote in the absence of the Congress (I) members.

The AIADMK and some independents, who had earlier supported the Congress (I), had already left by the time the Bill was finally adopted.

Doctors without jobs

New Delhi (IBS) - Health Minister Rabi Ray informed the Lok Sabha, that there were 13,518 unemployed doctors in the country, 3,290 of them in Andhra Pradesh. Second on the list is Tamil Nadu with 3,145 followed by Orissa (1,800), Gujarat (955), Rajasthan (690), Madhya Pradesh (667), Maharashtra (581), Bihar (588), Kerala (497), Karnataka (421), Assam (375), Uttar Pradesh (244), Haryana (179) and Punjab (86).

No more 'namaste'

New Delhi (IBS) - The traditional "Namaste" with which hostesses of Indian Airlines greet each passenger is being faded out to give more time to the crew for inflight services.

A spokesman of the airlines said that the practice had already been discontinued on the Airbus and Boeing flights and would be faded out on other aircraft as well. He said that the large number of passengers on bigger aircraft and the increasing passenger demands for faster service warranted that the crew spend more time in being ready to give in-flight service to passengers, like serving food and beverages and care for children and the handicapped.

He said if the crew were strengthened, the number of passengers would have to be reduced while the financial burden on the airlines would increase. An airbus carried 278 passengers while a Boeing-737 carried 126.

Morarji to discuss Bangladesh exodus

New Delhi, April 1 (UNI) - The question of reported exodus of minorities from Bangladesh into north eastern States of India would be taken up by Prime Minister Morarji Desai during his official visit to Dacca this month.

Minister of State for Home Affairs Dhanik Lal Mandal told the Rajya Sabha (Upper House) that the matter was also discussed when the Bangladesh President Zia-ur-Rahman had visited India last.

Recently some people of the Chakmas tribe from the Chittagong hill tracts had entered Mizoram in a clandestine manner. About 4,600 of them had

It was apprehended that an equal number or slightly more might still be staying in Mizoram.

Bangladesh authorities had agreed to take them back and arrangements were being made accordingly, he said.

"Apart from these developments, the government had no information on any recent exodus of minorities from Bangladesh

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Boilermaker	8 years	April 30, 1980
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Ministry of Education

Hon. Bette Stephenson, M.D., Minister
Dr. H. K. Fisher, Deputy Minister

Ontario

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COMMUNITY MALIGNED

The issue of remittances to dependents in India and the unreasonable stand that the Department of National Revenue is adopting in this matter we brought to our reader's attention some time ago [February 1 , 1979] has now become a national issue. Recently a P.C. Member of Parliament Mr. Clark from Vancouver raised the question in Parliament and singled out the Indo-Canadian community as the main culprit indulging in "fraudulent" activities. Minister Anthony Abbott has by and large endorsed the view of Mr. Clark.

As pointed out by Mr. N.K. Tandon in the letter printed elsewhere, "I have been told my claim is invalid because my father had an income far in excess of $3 per month, which I am now told, is the maximum allowable income for someone in India to be claimed as a dependent. This calculation is based on a recent departmental formula which does not as yet exist in any of the department's publications or information sheets". Indeed it is shocking to hear that $3 a month is all that an Indian needs to make ends meet while an immigrant from Britain or U.S.A. will be allowed to deduct a higher amount. Also to give this new measure retroactive effect without any warning is very unjust. The issue itself will have to be fought tooth and nail in appeal tribunals, federal courts if necessary and brought to the attention of the Canadian Human Rights Commission. It would be desirable to have an individual's case, as a representative case, be vigorously fought by the National Association of Canadians of Origins in India with the help of other organizations and interested individuals.

At the present time, however, another kind of action is called for. Minister Anthony Abbott and Vancouver M.P. Clark brought in the red herring of "fraudulent" claims in the context of these cases. It is not suggested here that no Indo-Canadian ever made a fraudulent claim. Some individuals might have. But why blame the Indo-Canadian community for the crimes of a few individuals just like the blaming the Italian community for having had some Italians in the Mafia?

This is an excellent time - thanks to the general election - to teach Minister Abbott and Mr. Clark M.P. a good lesson. The Minister's Mississauga riding consists of several thousand Indo-Canadians. Can they, as they did last November during the mayoral election, organize themselves and make sure that Abbott is not sent back to Ottawa to slur the Indo-Canadians.

Similarly Vancouver has a good number of Indo-Canadians including several millionaires among them. Could they chalk out a united front and do their utmost to defeat Mr. Clark in Vancouver.

We hope Indo-Canadians and, other South Asians who are equally affected, will rise up to this challenge.

Lonely Canadian beaver

New Delhi (IBS) - A Canadian beaver, imported by the Delhi zoo, is leading a lonely existence because his female partner died a few days after their arrival. While officials are awaiting a replacement, the zoo has been trying to train its first ever beaver to live cheaply, like most Indians, on carrots and potatoes instead of apples which are comparatively expensive in this country.

When the zoo attendants cut off apples from his menu, the little fellow went on a hunger strike. The zoo officials gave in and provided it with three apples a day. It is only when he has his fill of apples that he eats carrots and potatoes.

Letters

3 dollars good enough for Indians

Revenue Minister Antony Abbott's claim that fictitious foreign relatives cost millions, is typical of the adverse publicity being given on this subject by the Revenue Department. I accepted such stories at their face value until recently when my own claims for my non-resident parents - both in their mid-seventies and living in India - were reassessed and rejected for the years 1974-1977.

I have been told that my claim is invalid because my father had an income far in excess of $3 per month, which, I am now told, is the maximum allowable income for someone in India to be claimed as a dependent. This calculation is based on a recent departmental formula which does not as yet exist in any of the department's publications or information sheets. This is a result of the "major crackdown" mentioned by the Revenue Minister. I presume that my claim is one of those now being labelled as "fraudulent."

It is not suggested here that Canadians have any inalienable right to claim tax exemptions for support of their non-resident dependents. It could be argued, however tenuously, that such exemptions should be discontinued altogether. If so, the Government should have the political will to seek a parliamentary amendment to section 109 (1) (f) of the Income Tax Act, instead of the bureaucratic alternative of defining away dependents in certain countries with the help of an ingenious formula.

N.K. Tandon
Ottawa

Indians return

New Delhi (IBS) About 7,000 Indian nationals had returned home from strife-torn Iran recently and some more are likely to return in the next few days, Minister of State for External Affairs S. Kundu informed the Lok Sabha.

Kundu said the exact number of Indian workers in Iran was not known as a large number of them were working without permits and had not registered themselves with the Indian Embassy.

President criticized

To speak any Indian language anywhere in India is a welcome sign; but a speaker will not be called a wise speaker, to say the least, if he starts speaking in a language without the help of an interpreter among the audience who do not generally understand that language. That is exactly what India's President did in New Delhi.

Not only this, the President had the temerity to criticize the speakers who spoke in their mother tongue to the audience who understood that language inspite of the fact that he himself spoke in his mother tongue, which he rightly loves and, to quote him, "nobody can say it is wrong". How does it become wrong and "narrow mindedness" for the Principal and Mr. Sahni to speak in their mother tongue, but broadmindedness for the President to speak in his mother tongue? Or is it narrow mindedness to speak in Hindi, but broad mindedness to speak in English or Telegue (Sic) or any other language? Let the Governor General of Canada criticize a speaker speaking in French (although it is a minority language) in any part of Canada, not just in Quebec; and then see the reaction of the Government and people of Canada. That type of sentiment, called nationalism, is needed to make a nation great; not a begging bowl attitude begging from the foreigners their money, food, language and many other things. Linguistic attitudes, Mr. President, do not stand in the way of progress; what stands in the way of progress is the attitude of not really loving all the languages (even Hindi) of a country which are the mouth pieces of its culture and civilization. This hatred was shown by the President inspite of the fact that Hindi is one of the two link languages of India which is spoken and understood in large parts of the country -- more than any other Indian language; and inspite of the fact that Hindi speakers are the third largest in the world after English and Chinese.

Just as Government and people of Canada will seriously think to replace such a Governor-General if he shows such a hatred against its languages, similarly we must replace Mr. Reddy as India's President to which office he has brought dishonour and shame. If India is to progress, such attitude must go.

Surinder Nath Gupta
St. Andrews West, Ont.

Rules for emigrants

New Delhi: (UNI) - The Supreme Court has laid down some guidelines to govern the emigration of persons for employment overseas till July 31 this year and said that it would thereafter be open to the Government to frame legislation on the subject.

The guidelines were pronounced by a five-judge Bench on certain petitions by recruiting agents challenging the cancellation of their licences, and certain intending emigrants who were refused permission to proceed overseas for employment.

The Supreme Court has said that no person shall emigrate or assist emigration of any person for the purpose of taking or enabling such person to take any employment which involved work which violated notions of human dignity.

Prescribing guidelines for emigration of Indians abroad for employment by recruiting agents for foreign employers, the court also said that no person shall emigrate or assist in the emigration of any person for jobs which by the law of India were prohibited or were regarded by those laws as unlawful, or which offended the public policy of India, or any other similar ground.

The five-judge Bench consisted of Chief Justice Y.V. Chandrachud, Justice R.S. Sarkaria, Justice N.L. Untwalia, Justice P.S. Kailasam and Justice E.S. Venkataramiah.

The court said the recruiting agents or emigrants, as the case may be, shall file with the Protector of Emigrants authentic copies of the contracts of employment with foreign employers.

Apart from this, emigrants would register themselves with the Protector of Emigrants either by themselves or through the recruiting agent, with liberty to the Protector to ask for further and better particulars in any case, within ten days of the submission of the application for registration.

The court said that the recruiting agents shall give security in accordance with the prescribed scale.

According to the scale, for every 25 to 50 persons recruited, the recruiting agent will deposit a security of Rs. 20,000, for every additional 50 to 100 persons, a security of Rs. 40,000 will be deposited, for every 100 to 250 persons, a security of Rs. 100,000, for 250 to 1,000 persons, a security of Rs. 200,000 and for over 1,000 persons a security of Rs. 500,000 would be deposited.

In case of emigrants who are not sponsored on a group basis, the security would be deposited by the recruiting agent or the emigrant concerned so as to cover the cost of repatriation by air travel (economy fare) from the country of employment to India.

The security would be in cash or bank guarantee at the option of the recruiting agent of the emigrant.

BIHAR TO GO TOTALLY DRY

Patna (IBS) - The Bihar Cabinet decided to introduce total prohibition throughout the State from April 1. The State will incur a revenue loss of about Rs. 360 million as a result but the Centre would make up 50 per cent of the loss.

Visit not ill-conceived

Calcutta, April 1 (UNI) - External Affairs Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has dispelled as incorrect the impression that his recent visit to China was ill-timed and ill-conceived.

"Having postponed the visit once, I thought it was proper to go this time. The second dates of the visit were announced long before the Kampuchean developments. We had been receiving reports (about the Sino-Vietnamese crisis) and we had taken note of the statement made by Mr. Deng while he was in America".

In a lengthy interview to a local weekly, Mr. Vajpayee siad, "our Embassies had kept us informed about the turn of events though there was speculation. We had conveyed to the Chinese Charge d' Affairs in New Delhi before my departure that during the visit nothing should be done or said that might create problems for us".

Painting recovered

Chandigarh (IBS) - A valuable 1740 Mughal miniature stolen along with 102 other precious paintings from the Chandigarh Museum nine years ago is now back with the Museum.

Senior Superintendent of Police Gautam Kaul said here that the painting was recovered in London when a firm of auctioneers detected it as the stolen miniature when an Indian national offered it for sale. The Indian said that he had bought the painting from a shop in Delhi's Jama Masjid area.

Linguistic

A Sou

By Francis Anatol

Of all the linguistic areas constitute the Indian Union, probably safe to say that the S of Tamil Nadu has generated most political activity over language issue. Time and ag the issue of language is resur ted in, what appears to n non-Tamilians, a highly char and emotional context. Ever neighboring Kerala State, tendency is to portray the pe of Tamil Nadu as being fier fanatic about the Tamil tongu While neighbors like Ker Karnataka, and Andhra Prad have more or less acquiesced accepting the Centre's three- guage formulae, Tamil N continues to champion the tw language formulae against se ingly formidable odds. Con utional niceties aside, there is distinct likelihood - even as In moves into the 1980's - tha linguistic alliance spearheaded a hitherto recalcitrant Ta Nadu, could be forged among southern states to counterac widespread tendency among Janata leadership towards lin istic chauvinism.

Much has been written about politics of the language issue Tamil Nadu, but very little been said about the non politi reasons for this developmen The reasons I shall examine both historic and linguistic. I these elemental issues that u onto the political tension and on-again off-again confronta between the Centre and Southern States, particularl Tamil Nadu.

HEART OF THE LANGUA ISSUE

At the heart of the resistance the use of Hindi as a natio language by Tamil speakers is prime historical linguistic ev ence pointing to the fact t Tamil is the modern Dravid literary language least influen by Indo-Aryan; a fact that highly valued by Tamil speak and grossly underrated by n Tamilians. The non-acceptan of Hindi has nothing to do w case of learning, but prima with intangibles such as Ta ethnic pride and language loyal Not only do Tamilians know t their language has the old literary tradition among the Dr idian and most Indo-Aryan la uages, but that the oldest of t Tamil literature of the "Sangam period is also the most prestigio of all Tamil literature. That oldest literature is also the m original suggests to Tamili that there was an even ol literature, documents for wh are no longer available. Also there is enough evidence suggest that the substratum the Indus Valley Civilization Dravidian. And since Tami assumed to be more ancient t Sanskrit, and Sanskrit far m ancient than Hindi, why sho Hindi be honored by being rai to the status of official natio language? Since almost any o language: Bengali, Telu Urdu, for example, has o literary tradition than Hindi, choose Hindi?

DRAVIDIAN vs INDO-ARYA

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Linguistic chauvinism

A Southern Viewpoint.

By Francis Assisi

Of all the linguistic areas that constitute the Indian Union, it is probably safe to say that the State of Tamil Nadu has generated the most political activity over the language issue. Time and again the issue of language is resurrected in what appears to most non-Tamilians, a highly charged and emotional context. Even in neighboring Kerala State, the tendency is to portray the people of Tamil Nadu as being fiercely fanatic about the Tamil tongue. While neighbors like Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh have more or less acquiesced into accepting the Centre's three-language formulae, Tamil Nadu continues to champion the two-language formulae against seemingly formidable odds. Constitutional niceties aside, there is the distinct likelihood - even as India moves into the 1980's - that a linguistic alliance spearheaded by a hitherto recalcitrant Tamil Nadu, could be forged among the southern states, to counteract a widespread tendency among the Janata leadership towards linguistic chauvinism.

Much has been written about the politics of the language issue in Tamil Nadu, but very little has been said about the non political reasons for this development. The reasons I shall examine are more historic and linguistic. It is these elemental issues that underlie the political tension and the ongoing on-again, off-again confrontation between the Centre and the Southern States, particularly Tamil Nadu.

HEART OF THE LANGUAGE ISSUE

At the heart of the resistance to the use of Hindi as a national language by Tamil speakers is the proper historical linguistic evidence pointing to the fact that Tamil is the modern Dravidian literary language least influenced by Indo-Aryan; a fact that is highly valued by Tamil speakers and grossly underrated by non-Tamilians. The non-acceptance of Hindi has nothing to do with ease of learning, but primarily with intangibles such as Tamil ethnic pride and language loyalty. Not only do Tamilians know that their language has the oldest literary tradition among the Dravidian and most Indo-Aryan languages, but that the oldest of the Tamil literature of the 'Sangam' period is also the most prestigious of all Tamil literature. That the oldest literature is also the most original suggests to Tamilians that there was an even older literature, documents for which are no longer available. Already there is 'enough' evidence to suggest that the substratum of the Indus Valley Civilization was Dravidian. And since Tamil is assumed to be more ancient than Sanskrit and Sanskrit far more ancient than Hindi, why should Hindi be honored by being raised to the status of official national language? Since almost any other language: Bengali, Telugu, Urdu, for example, has older literary tradition than Hindi, why choose Hindi?

DRAVIDIAN vs INDO-ARYAN

The study of the language issue in Tamil Nadu should begin in approximately 1000 B.C. or even earlier, for one of the cornerstones of the problem is the argument of the antiquity of Tamil culture. Tamilians know, and they are being constantly supplied with new evidence to support it, that the Dravidians antedated the Indo-Aryans on the Indian subcontinent. The Dravidian languages have not been proven to be related to any other family, and they are spread across India in a configuration that suggests that speakers of Dravidian once occupied a much larger area.

A BIOLOGICAL URGE

There is, in addition, an abiding biological principle: that political structures of human societies must eventually break down into entities truer and more ethnic. The Irish Americans resurrecting their heritage, the Welsh speaking their language with pride and fighting for it in Britain, the Scots demanding a parliament, the Kurds and the Baluchis at war with their States, the resurgence among the Basques and the Catalans, even the defiance of the Nagas: these represent today a world alternative; of people choosing and being able to live in truer and smaller societies. Ethnocentrism, ethnic pride, is bound to sweep India in the coming decades even as glib tongued politicians continue to talk of "fissiparous tendencies" and "centrifugal forces"; unaware of the elemental biological urge that impels societies into convulsive shocks.

POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE

An evaluation of Tamilian claims to a separate, independent, more ancient culture, must include the implications of the late political incorporation into India of the ancient kingdoms of Tamil Nadu: the Chola, the Chera, and Pandya dynasties. The Tamil kingdoms were independent of any political contact with Northern India until the Vijayanagar period. Admittedly, Aryan influences and Aryan culture had begun to penetrate into South India much earlier, but politically, the present Tamil and Malayalam speaking areas were not united with the North until the British period.

Thus both an ancient cultural legacy and former political independence give South Indians, and especially Tamilians, great pride in their language and traditions.

India's bankrupt states

A Special Report.

New Delhi (IBS) - A majority of India's 22 State Governments are bankrupt, living largely on Central Government loans - which they cannot repay.

Till now this year over a dozen State Governments have come out with their deficit budgets. While some have made halting attempts to reduce the budgetary gaps by imposing new levies, others have refrained from doing so to avoid popular wrath. Even the States that have resorted to taxation have not gone far enough to cover the full budgetary gap.

The 22 States are required to raise additional resources totalling Rs. 40,000 million ($5,000 million) during the Sixth Plan period 1978-83. But they have hardly made any serious attempts to do so despite commitments to the Planning Commission. Additional resources raised by all the States in 1978-79, the first year of the Sixth Plan, totalled only around Rs. 700 million ($88 million). The outlook this year (1979-80) also looks bleak.

The situation is so bad that the Planning Commission Deputy Chairman, Dr. D.T. Lakdawala, had to complain at the recent State Governor's conference at Delhi that many States had failed in their commitment to raise additional resources. He said only three or four States had carried out their promise.

Two major States like Andhra Pradesh and Punjab, while leaving big budget deficits, have not levied any new taxes. The deficit in the case of Andhra Pradesh is 748.6 million ($94 million) and Punjab Rs. 438.2 million ($45 million).

The two States that have gone in for considerable taxation efforts are the Communist-ruled West Bengal and rebel Congress-Janata ruled Maharashtra.

FAVOURITE LEVIES

One of the major levies restored to by State Finance Ministers to raise additional resources is the upward revision of motor vehicle tax.

Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Haryana have gone in for this new levy which, with the recent increase in motor spirit and high speed diesel oil imposed by the Union Government, will push up transport cost in these States.

Maharashtra, West Bengal and Assam have come down heavily on liquor though the Union Deputy Prime Minister had spared it this time.

West Bengal has also imposed new levies in various items of conspicuous expenditure like cabaret performances, racing totes, etc.

Some States have made attempts to raise resources from the better off among the rural community.

A favourite tax of State Finance Ministers has been the stamp duty and registration fees which some States have enhanced.

The Sales tax structure has been rationalised to yield additional revenue by Maharashtra, while West Bengal has gone in for a new professional tax.

The State budgets of 1978-79 disclosed a staggering combined deficit of Rs. 7,450 million ($930 million).

Many States went in for large overdrafts from the Reserve Bank to meet the deficits.

The Central Government has now told the States that hereafter they should not go in for unauthorised overdrafts. The Reserve Bank has been instructed to stop such payments.

IMPRUDENT HOUSEKEEPING

Despite the recent massive transfer of funds from the Centre under the Seventh Finance Commission's award, most of the States have shown no signs of prudent housekeeping. Nor do the budgets presented by them so far conform to any discernible pattern.

The trends towards dishing out cash doles to a select few by way of old-age pensions, unemployment relief and grants or subsidies for the purchase of bullocks, fertilisers, farm implements and raw materials for cottage industries seems to be gaining momentum.

All this would be a welcome development if it leads to a rise in the standards of nutrition and health in the rural areas, better use of the available manpower and generation of more income through productive work.

But this is clearly not the case: survey after survey has shown that the machinery to administer such welfare schemes is rickety, corrupt or both.

Equally deplorable is the fact that massive allocations for irrigations and power in almost all the States are not yielding the expected benefits due to poor management.

For some years now the non-Plan expenditure of the States has been going up and up even, while the efficiency of their administrative machinery has rapidly declined. Unless this trend is decisively reversed, many of them may not be able to stave off bankruptcy next year.

They have relied heavily in the past on overdrafts on the Reserve Bank to meet current expenditure, but they will not be able to do so in the future if the Central Government sticks to the strict rules it has now framed in that behalf.

Judiciary being pressurised

Calcutta, March 24 (UNI) - Mrs. Indira Gandhi has questioned the appointment of Mr. Justice O.N. Vohra as an additional Judge of the Delhi High Court and said "the judiciary is, no doubt, being pressurised by the Janata Government".

"The appointment was not announced earlier", she said, adding, "the post in the Delhi High Court was kept vacant for about a year and a half".

Justice Vohra sentenced Mr. Sanjay Gandhi and Mr. V.C. Shukla to two year rigorous imprisonment.

Replying to a question about the Special Court move to try her, she said, "all these (moves) are nothing but politically motivated". I would seek re-election from Chikmagalur if I am not disenfranchised, she reiterated.

Uproar over blacklist

New Delhi (IBS) - The blacklisting of some commentators, writers and journalists, including some members of Parliament, by All India Radio and Television under instructions of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting rocked the Rajya Sabha during question hour recently.

For over 45 minutes, members belonging to the two Congress factions alleged that mass media, which includes the radio and television network, was being misused by the Minister, Lal K. Advani. Repudiating the charge, Advani said he had always maintained that he had issued instructions that people who "vociferously advocated Emergency" should not be invited by AIR and Television for some time.

With a view to restoring the credibility of the media which was eroded during the Emergency, Advani said, the present Government issued policy guidelines on April 18, 1978. Seventeen persons among those appearing on AIR and Television during the Emergency were identified as its strong supporters. He also recalled an earlier clarification: "Persons who were active in the presentation of programmes in justification of the Emergency or in support of the 20-point programme of the Former Prime Minister and the 5-point programme of Sanjay Gandhi should not be booked too often and in any case not for political discussions and commentaries." But they could be booked for programmes of a cultural nature.

Eve-teasing in New Delhi

New Delhi (IBS) - Ever heard of "eve-teasing" in the Western world, where dating is common?

In India this is an offence.

There were 216 cases of 'eve-teasing' and 21 cases of molestation of women in Delhi alone in the months ending February this year.

Giving this information in the Rajya Sabha, the Minister of State for Home Affairs, S.D. Patil, listed various measures being taken by the police to check such crimes against women. These include deployment of policemen and women in plain clothes in buses, particularly during morning and evening hours, and preparation of albums of "eve-teasers".

Patil said joint coordination committees of police and girl students were being formed in women's colleges in north and south Delhi campuses for a periodic review of this problem.

Instructions have been issued to policemen travelling in buses, whether on duty or otherwise, to take notice of "eve-teasing", intervene and bring the culprits to book.

Police have also been asked to make on-the-spot arrests of the culprits and later prosecute them in courts.

WEDDING BELLS FOR NAFISA ALI

Jaipur (IBS) - Nafisa Ali, who had an important role in Shyam Benegal's "Junoon", is to marry ace polo player Col R.S. (Pickles) Sodhi later this month.

Judges demand justice

New Delhi, March 26 (UNI) - The capital recently witnessed a rare spectacle of dispensers of justice parading the streets seeking justice for themselves.

The processionists, carried no placards and did not raise any slogans. Their's was a silent march.

Additional Session Judges, Metropolitan Magistrates and Sub Judges, numbering about 100 including four women, participated in the "march to Parliament" to focus attention on their demand for pay revision and improvement of service conditions.

Led by office-bearers of the Judicial Officers Association they marched from Connaught Place, through the crowded Parliament Street and assembled at the Raisina Road crossing near the Press Club of India.

The procession was not allowed to proceed to Parliament House in view of the prohibitory orders under section 144, Cr PC, enforced in the area.

Oberoi scraps Sheraton link

New Delhi (IBS) - Oberoi Hotels have cancelled their collaboration agreement with Sheranton Hotels International following a new collaboration agreement between the latter and a new chain of hotels by India Tobacco Company. The Oberoi-Sheranton Hotel in Bombay will now be known as Hotel Oberoi, Bombay.

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Understanding Indians

By Hari N. Shrivastava
and
Raguvansh L. Kapila

Human migration is an age old phenomenon. The extent of human mobility has largely depended on the mode of transportation and communication prevalent at the time under consideration. In 20th century, no country can be an island onto itself nor can any society live in absolute isolation. Hence it is not surprising that several westerners go to India in search of new values and just adore the simple life style. By the same token several Indians or people of Indian origin, migrate to west and in turn to Canada, in search of better professional and economic opportunities.

As a potentially promising industrious and comparatively young nation, Canada is planning for herself the best that is possible under the circumstances. Thus the immigration policy of non discriminatory selection standard set by the government is based on an ingenious philosophy derived from ecology that is diversity adds and promotes the stability of a system. The planned diversity may have genetic or cultural implications. The government by its immigration process hopes to attract talented people from all over the world irrespective of their race or religious makeup. It is foreseen that this will embrace in the Canadian orbit beliefs, customs, rites, institutions, arts, religions and philosophy belonging to several other civilizations which are in different stages of development. This is well known, that for a growing civilization, it is vital to have contributions from various cultures.

This entails a two way responsibility. First, on the part of the government to promote an amiable environment, in which an ethnic group can contribute the best from the country of origin, while gradually assimilating in the Canadian mosiac. Second, on the part of the ethnic group, in this case Indians or people of Indian origin, to recognize their inherent potential and endeavour to contribute the best of the human qualities, in addition to their professional proficiency for the growth of Canada as a nation.

The term Indian is used here in a general sense, because not all members of the ethnic group come from India. The ethnic group, erroneously referred to as East Indians has a diverse origin. Since long, people from India have migrated to various parts of the world eg. Sri Lanka (Ceylon), Far East, West Indies, Africa and the United Kingdom. Furthermore, the recent political boundaries resulting in the formations of Pakistan and Bangladesh are too well known. Thus the immigrants belonging to the so called East Indian stock, in fact come from all across the globe. In any event, there is a common cultural binding link to India among these people, which evidently is the reflection of the strength of Indian culture.

The general impression in Canada, people have about India is that of poverty and a 'holy cow' image. This is a very superficial observation. The poverty stricken image is mostly propogated by some journalists and various charitable organizations. The latter in pursuit of performing the humanitarian services to their best, advertise vigorously in media the poverty-stricken image of the East. Thus in the minds of the people it leaves the impression that all Asians are poor. The logic of those advertisements is simple. If these organizations do not advertise as they do, but instead for example, put a picture of Taj Mahal and then ask for donations, they would not get enough support and a great humanitarian cause would suffer.

However, it must be pointed out that majority of the inhabitants of the rural areas of India are poor by North American Standards. Nevertheless, these communities are self sufficient and are remarkably protected from the social and political upheavals of the country or for that matter of the world at large. To appreciate this point further, the reader is referred to 'Small is Beautiful' by E.F. Schumacher.

Those who have done a conscientious study of world civilization, found India very fascinating and worthy of admiration. Will Durant was one of them. His books entitled 'The Story of Civilization' are bible to the students of history. Durant a biologist, a philosopher and a Presbyterian Church Minister from New York remarks: "Nothing should more deeply shame the modern student than the recency and inadequacy of his acquaintance with India". He further goes on; "— an impressive continuity of development and civilization from Mohen-jo-daro 2900 BC or earlier", "— philosophers playing a thousand variations on one monastic theme from Upanishads eight centuries before Christ". "— a democratic constitution of untraceable antiquity in the villages", "— this is the India that patient scholarship is now opening up, like a new intellectual continent to that Western mind, which only yesterday thought civilization an exclusively European thing". Will Durant summarizes India's contribution to human civilization as follows: "India was the motherland of our race and Sanskrit the mother of our languages. She was the mother of our philosophy; mother through Buddha of the ideals embodied in Christianity; mother through the village community of self-government and democracy. Mother India is in many ways the mother of us all".

In order to understand and appreciate properly the customs and culture of India and her people, it is necessary to keep a few basic facts in mind.

India covers an area equal to Europe (excluding Russia), and is protected in the north by the Himalayan peaks and in the south by the Indian ocean. The climate varies from moderate temperate to tropical. The interior contains snowy hillside to arid desert, fertile monsoon regions, jungle plateau and sunny valleys crossed by great rivers. Over the centuries many people have entered this vast land and settled in it for varying period. Aryans, Persians, Greeks, Jews, Moslem, English, French, Dutch, and Portuguese have each added something of their civilization to the original indigenous elements of Indian culture. Inevitably a multi-facet civilization, the source of a rich and varied arts has emerged from such a mixture of talents. The overall effect is the multi-cultural features, unmatched in the history of any nation in the world. In fact the strength and stability of the Indian system lies in its diversity and power of assimilation.

The history of India dates back from time immemorial. There is evidence with certainty of records up to 3000 BC. The understanding of Indian culture to this period comes from Vedas which literary mean knowledge or wisdom. The oldest of these, **Rg-Veda** are assemblage of hymns and appears to be a collection which represents the thoughts of several generation of thinkers. The **Yajur-Veda** deals with sacrificial formulae, the **Sama-Veda** refers to melodies and the **Atharva-Veda** has a large number of magic formulae. The knowledge imparted in these is comprehensive and universally beneficial.

Indian attitude to the **Vedas** is one of trust mingled with criticism. Trust, because the ancient belief and wisdom may be valid today as well; criticism, because however valuable the testimony of the past ages may be, it cannot deprive the present age of its right to re-examine and alter it suiting to the present day requirement.

The power of thought and reasoning distinguishes humans from animals and plants. This has been the chief cause of making and unmaking of individuals as well as nations. Therefore in India, the quality of contribution to world thought, rather than material possession or social or political status of the person has been criterion for honour. Unselfish service is credited with greatest merit. Logic and progress of thought was encouraged even in the sensitive area of religion. Peace and progress of an individual and community is sought within overall peace and progress of the nation.

Once these basic facts are properly understood, it becomes easy to get at the fundamental unity below the apparent diversity.

[To be continued].....

Prayers and meditation

By Rameshwar P. Bhargava

Prayers and meditation are in fact two rungs of the same spiritual ladder. To quote Swami Krishnanandaji, we often as human beings, take life for granted as if it is an open book before us. We regard life as a clear presentation like day-light and go headlong along the business of our daily activities with the impression that things are perfectly clear and we have simply to act on the thought that occurs to our mind. This is, however, an unfortunate presumption". The cloth of life is spread before us; but it is not a flat surface as we imagine it to be. Everyone has been caught in this network of things called the world, right from creation to the present day, and we have no reason to believe that the future generation will not be so caught."

Admit it or not, from the cradle to the grave, consciously or unconsciously, we feel ourselves inadequate and are always yearning for something or the other to make ourselves adequate. It may be an infant's cry for his mother's milk, a kid's demand for toys, a students wish for excellence in exams, a grown-ups desire for success in his profession whatever it may be, or lastly, an old man's craving for a peaceful death. You may give it any name — an innocent desire, a pious meaningful prayer or begging, in a slang language — All the same: it is asking for something and there is none who refrains from indulging in it. Demands vary both in quality and quantity and are seldom satiable. The only common denominator is a search for happiness. But what is your conception of happiness and delight is what matters. Normally, we are all made of the same substance, same stuff. Man is man, always. He never changes. They have the same weaknesses and their desires are of the same character. It is here that our scriptures come to our rescue. Kath-Upanishad brings this point into prominence by showing the two directions along which the mind of man moves, Viz., the outward and the inward. The outward path is the way of pleasure and enjoyment. The inward way is the search for Reality. The two terms Sreyas and Preyas, used in this instructive sentence, refer to blessedness and sensory satisfaction respectively. The human mind is always after immediate results. It does not care so much for ultimate values. I may be even hanged tomorrow, but today I must have the satisfaction. This seems to be the usual argument and the wish of the human being. This attitude has to be corrected and for this proper approach is needed. A sick person runs to the doctor, a student to his teacher, a person in need of governmental help contacts the authority concerned, a disciple yearning for spiritual enlightment seeks a Guru. But once one is convinced that God is All - Powerful and All - Merciful and that He can bestow any blessings sought for, one cannot but turn to Him. It may be as a result of our previous Samskars or the trials and tribulations of life that one resorts to Him, but that matters little. One thing is certain that it is a panacea for all ills and a never-failing remedy provided the approach is correct and sincere.

The kitten mews, and the cat runs to it and carries it away. The baby cries, and the mother, leaving all work, attends to him. Even so, the devotee cries and the Lord comes to his rescue.

What is Prayer? "Prayer is depending on God for help in distress. Prayer is giving an opportunity to God to comfort the devotee. Prayer is lightening the heaviness of our heart by opening it to God. Prayer is expecting god to decide what is best for us when we are in a dilemma. From despair, man learns prayer." Swami Sivananda.

A patient would not consult a doctor in public, a client would not openly divulge his secrets to his lawyer, a person borrowing money from a bank would never like a third person to know anything about his financial problems. Every dealing is done person to person and in full confidence. Similarly, prayer is a silent communion between God and His devotee. Surely, it is not something for display. To quote Clive Johnson, " it is the bridge between man and God; the one means by which man can speak his inmost thoughts without fear of rejection or ridicule. Only one requirement is asked: that we pray to Him with a sincere and longing heart. Our words matter naught, it is our devotion and earnestness that do." "Pray to Him in any way you like," said Shri Rama Krishna." He is sure to hear you. He can hear even the foot-fall of an ant. The child does not know grammar and pronunciation, it utters some sound, but the mother understands. When others can understand the language of the heart, what to say of the Antaryamin, the Indweller? He knows what we wish to say. He is ever watching for the distress signals of His children. We can open our hearts to Him without reservations. The response will be instantaneous provided there is complete surrender. Therefore kneel down and pray." But remember any short-circuiting results in power failure; a mistake even in one digit of the telephone number invalidates the call. Even so, unless all distractions are removed and we are fully attuned to God, our efforts are likely to result in frustration.

For every undertaking in the world, there is a goal to be achieved and means for its achievement. Moksh of Self-Realization which affords the maximum happiness that one could imagine and aspire for, is the goal and prayer is the trusted companion along the weary path. Prayer is the rock to which man can cling when he is drowning in the ocean of Samsar.

One cries when the house is burgled. One weeps and wails when his child is dead. He writhes in agony when his limbs are crushed. Why not cry for Him always. He will avert all calamities. Mind you, none in this world can save us. Everybody is selfish. It is God who likes us the most. Let us call on Him and seek His guidance and invoke His mercy. Prayers, Nama-Japa, etc. are the many arrow-marks pointing to the direction of the Supreme. They are the guide-posts enroute to Truth. They help the human mind to reach it.

Prayer intensified turns into meditation which, when pursued, leads to Self-Realization and Eternal Bliss.

Philosophy of prayer is beautifully put in a nut-shell by Helen Steiner Rice:

"Somebody Loves you more than you know,
Somebody Really and Truly Cares.
Somebody goes with you wherever you go.
And Lovingly Listens to All of Your Prayers.
And if you walk *IN HIS FOOT*-STEPS and have the FAITH TO BELIEVE.
There is nothing you ask for
That you will not receive!"
and
"The HOUSE OF PRAYER" is no farther away
Than the quiet spot where you kneel and pray,
For the heart is a temple when God is there.
As you place yourself in His Loving Care."

To quote Mrs. Barbould:

"His ears are open to the softest cry;
His grace descends to meet the lifted eye;
He reads the language of a silent tear,
And sighs are incense from a heart sincere."

Lord Krishna has in no ambiguous terms given assurance to His Devotees: Those Devotees, however, who worship Me, meditating on Me alone, to them whoever persevere, I bring attainment of what they have not and security in what they have." (Geeta, IX-22).

So, let us utter God's name with an unsophisticated simple mind, detaching ourselves from the things of the world and attaching ourselves to His Holy Feet. Let us pray to Him with contrition and humility: "O God! I possess no virtue which will make me deserve Thy Grace. Do not count my disqualifications. Have mercy on me and take me under Thy Divine protection! Thy will be done."

To Sankar, the great Acharya, prayer was not beggary. His hymns invariably consist of prayer to grant the true light of knowledge and discrimination and to be saved from the wheel of births and deaths as contained in the upanishadic prayer:

O God!
Lead me from untruth to truth,
Lead me from Darkness to Light,
Lead me from Death to Immortality.

FILMS

PARVEEN BABI - A GAME OF HIGH STAKES

Zaheer Nasir and Julees Abid

Parveen Babi, who despite her dazzling looks has not been able to prove her histrionic worth so far, has been quick to profit from the situation. This extremely moody and whimsical girl was introduced by B.R. Ishara in the film **Charitra** in which former Cricketer Saleem Durrani played the male lead. The film flopped. Parveen appeared in a number of films after that, but all met with similar fate at the box office except of course **Deewar, Kalicharan, Sons, and Amar Akbar Anthony** for the success of which she cannot claim any credit for herself. None of the three films needed a heroine at all and in them Praveen served merely as a decoration piece. Demand for her among the lassitude-ridden film makers started snow balling nevertheless, forgetting and ignoring her long series of failures (**Dhuan Ki Lakeer, Rangeela Rajan, Bullet, Mama Bhanja, Chor Sipahi, Bhanwar, Charas, Sona, Ahuti** etc.). They strewed her path with contracts. May be they were somewhat justified in overlooking her failures, for the life of every hero and heroine is inevitably chequered with successes and failures, but, strange enough, they lost sight of yet another trait, which is more dangerous, more irksome, more lethal.

The streak had already struck a section of the film industry earlier like a bolt from the blue, when all of a sudden Parveen Babi skipped away to Europe with Kabir Bedi to seek her fortune in alien land leaving behind a score or so bewildered, panic-stricken film makers in India. It was only the luck which turned the tide in their favour. Parveen, having failed to conquer European screen, returned to India in time to prevent casualties, otherwise, just as Arbind Sen hastily replaced Parveen by Shabana Azmi when he completed his **Atithee**, every producer would have been forced to seek "replacements", resulting in colossal loss of time, energy, money and human resources. The "star-gazing" film makers can hardly be expected to mind their artistes abide by such silly stipulations as (1) that he/she must not leave the country to settle elsewhere in the world, (2) must not marry, or if marries will not retire from films, (3) will not indulge in capricious love affairs entailing long periods of absence from shooting spells, while a film is under production. They have accustomed themselves to bow in silent resignation before the whims and wishes of these all-powerful stars. Instead of controlling even the sluice-gates they helplessly suffer the ebb and flow being washed away making them vulnerable to any sudden deluge. This suicidal trend has proved to be a great boon to not-so-bright stars as Parveen Babi. She herself confesses that so far successes has altogether eluded her and that she has yet to get a chance to exploit her true capabilities. But, the "crazy" film-makers vie with each other in offering leading roles to her. Currently, she is signing new film contracts every week.

The list of films Parveen has already signed is quite long and impressive. To a rational person it is fear-provoking as well. The list includes, **Suhag** (Amitabh, Shashi, Rekha), **Razia Sultan** (Dharmendra, Hema Malini), **Kala Pathar** (Amitabh, Shashi, Rekha, Shatrughan, Neetu), **Burning Train** (Dharmendra, Hema Malini, Vinod Khanna, Sushma Singh, Jitendra, Reena Roy, Nischal), **Chandiya and Chor**

tation

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Prayer magnified turns into meditation which, when pursued, leads to Self-Realization and Eternal Bliss.

Philosophy of prayer is beautifully put in a nut-shell by Helen Steiner Rice:

"Somebody Loves you more than you know,
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Sankara, the great Acharya prayed: "Let not beggary, the curse of humanity consist of prayer to grant the true light of knowledge and discrimination and to be saved from the wheel of birth and death, as continued in this world."

FILMS

PARVEEN BABI - A GAME AT HIGH STAKES

Zaheer Nasir and Jalees Ahidi

Parveen Babi, who despite her dazzling looks has not been able to prove her histrionic worth so far, has been quick to profit by the situation. This extremely moody and whimsical girl was introduced by B.R. Ishara in his film **Charitra** in which former Cricketer Saleem Durrani played the male lead. The film flopped. Parveen appeared in a number of films after that, but all met with similar fate at the box office, except of course **Deewaar**, **Kalaa Sona**, and **Amar Akbar Anthony**, for the success of which she cannot claim any credit for herself. None of the three films needed a heroine at all and in each Parveen served merely as a showpiece. Demand for her services, however, suddenly flared up. Producers, directors, financiers, film-makers, in short all those who matter in the film industry, started showering attention on her. Forgetting and ignoring her long series of failures (**Dhuan**, **Ki Taleem**, **Rangeela Ratan**, **Ballet**, **Mama Bhanja**, **Char Sipahi**, **Bhanwar**, **Chandi Sona**, **Anadi** etc.,) they strewed her path with contracts. Maybe they were somewhat justified in overlooking her failures, for the life of every hero and heroine is inevitably chequered with successes and failures, but, strangely enough, they lost sight of yet another factor, which is more dangerous, more irksome, more lethal.

The shock had already struck a section of the film industry earlier like a bolt from the blue, when all alone Sudden Parveen Babi skipped away to Europe with Kabir Bedi to seek her fortune in alien lands, leaving behind a score or so of bewildered, panic-stricken film-makers in India. It was only their luck which turned the tide in their favour. Parveen, having failed to conquer European screen, returned to India in time to prevent casualties, otherwise, just as Zeenat Aman hastily replaced Parveen by Shabana Azmi and couple of hits **Ajnabee** every producer could have been forced to make replacements, resulting in colossal loss of time, energy, money and human resources.

Now the gazing film-makers will hardly be expected to make concessions as they did in the past. She will have the country to settle anywhere in the world, (2) will not marry or if marries will not quit films, (3) will not indulge in capricious love affairs involving long periods of absence during shooting spells, while the picture is under production. They have reasoned themselves to silent resignation before the whims and wishes of the superstars. Instead of attempting even the sluice-gates, they passively suffer the entire flood to be washed away making themselves susceptible to any sudden whim. This suicidal trend has started to be a great boon to superstars as Parveen herself confesses that her success has always taken her and that she has yet to have a chance to exploit her talent to the fullest. But the "star-makers" vie with each other in offering leading roles to Parveen, she is signing 2-3 new contracts every week.

[illegible] of films Parveen has signed is quite long and varied. In a typical person [illegible] as well. The [illegible] Suhag (Amitabh, Rekha), **Rasila Sultan** (Jeetendra, Moushmi) [illegible] Amitabh, Shashi) [illegible] The [illegible] Kabir [illegible] Nasir Hussain and Chand

AUR KAUN? (Hindi)

Written and Produced by Kumar Ramsay

Directed by Tulsi Ramsay & Shyam Ramsay

The horror film has existed almost since the beginning of cinema. The characteristics of this genre of cinema is that it haunts people long after they have gone home. In some ways, one is still haunted by the earlier horror films: **Frankenstein**, **Golem**, **The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari**, **Nosferatu**, **Waxworks**, **Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde**, the **Dracula** series, **The Invisible Man**, and many others.

Alfred Hitchcock put, knowingly or unknowingly, a lot of horror in his murder-and-suspense films. The best of them all was **Psycho** whose murder screech was the most gruesome screech in the history of cinema. Intrigue, fear, fright, suspense of the suspected and the unsuspected, murder and mayhem of the most grotesque kind are the ingredients of horror films. And Hitchcock excels in them - though his films cannot be classified as horror films. The chills and thrills of a Hitchcock are no less than those of a Dracula and a Frankestein. Perhaps the first horror on the screen was created by Edison in 1908 when he caught **Frankenstein** in a picture. Of course, in the very beginning motion pictures - especially those of the onrushing trains - sent terror among the audience, that they're being run over and out of sheer fright they ran out of nickelodeons screaming and shouting for safety.

India has produced very few of the horror films as such. But a few murder-and-suspense mysteries had a lot of horror element in them: **Does Saal Baad**, **Kohra**, **Does Saal Pahle**, to name only a few. But the horror film as such in India has not been as prominent as in the West. May be, three of four films that were produced during the last few years were inspired by the horror films - **Shivers**, **The Black Christmas**, **Omen** - shown in the information section of the Sixth international film festival of India, in 1977. After the Phenomenal success of **The Exorcist** in America, the horror film spurted in full scream and scores of them were produced. Even **Omen** and **The Exorcist** had their sequels. One Indian producer went to the extent of making an Indian version of **The Exorcist** entitledd **Jadu Tona**. But after representations from social organizations the Government of India recently banned both the films - the original black magic film and its pale Indian version.

Special effects are the basics of horror films, and now they have become the basics of sci-fi-films, especially when the films plots are being placed in the 21st, 22nd and 23rd centuries. And in India special effects are the weakest point of the process of film-making. Even for special sound effects Indian film producers have to run to London - which perhaps has the best sound effects experts in the world. For want of special effects, Indian horror films, whatever they are, are not as horrific as their Western counterparts.

For that very reason **Aur Kaun?** is not as horrific as it should have been. The Ramsay Brothers - eight of them - are technically efficient but not as efficient as their counterparts in the West. Their first shot at horror film was **Darwaza**. **Aur Kaun?** is their second attempt. Technically **Aur Kaun?** is better in horrifics yet it lacks that horror quality one associates with horror films. It has mutilated corpses, mysterious light effects, corpses coming alive, suspenseful atmosphere, twists and turns but all these don't send as many creeps down one's spine as a film of this genre is supposed to. It is advertised as "Love story that started in Bed... ended in a Grave". So much in it is deja vu scenes and sequences patterned after foreign films. Throwing of the corpse in a stream is derivative from **Psycho**.

The film becomes gripping only when one after the other, the household servants are exposed.

We said that light effects are mysterious but only in parts. Much more play upon the mysterious lights could have made it a more effective horrific. The cast is only cursory to such films. We have yet to produce the number of horror films to make an actor synonymous with the monster-like Lon Chaney in the West. John Barrymore played Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde so perfectly that he came to be known as Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

Sachin is the young man round whom the horrors net is built up and he looks frightened all right throughout the film, even in romantic situations when the first horror has yet to be unfolded on the screen. Maybe he was conscious that he was working in a horror film. Rajni Sharma, the plumpish, petite girl, is there only for romantic interest.

The villains of the Hindi screen: Roopesh Kumar, Madan Puri, Nazir Hussain, Sudhir, Om Shivpuri, are gathered in force. But Madan Puri has nothing to do with villainy as much as the others have. Their villainy is only unmasked when the plot takes on surprise twists.

Aur Kaun? could have a sequel. The Return of Madan Puri to the scene and his efforts to grab the hidden treasure, the twist in the story being that he is an impostor and not the real father of the young man.

Darshak

Darshak in Democratic World.

ragupta (Dilip Kumar, Dharmendra, Hema Malini) **Kranti** (Dilip, Manoj, Shashi, Shatru, Hema). **Sultan** (Shashi, Sanjeev, Parikshit, Vidya Sinha). **Khoon aur Pani** (Feroz Khan, Jeetendra, Reena Roy). **Anant** (Sharmila, Vinod Khanna, Mausami). **Shan** (Amitabh, Sanjeev, Shashi, Rakhi, Shatru, Sunil Dutt). **Do aur Do Paanch** (Amitabh, Shashi, Hema). **Naseeb** (Amitabh, Hema, Neetu, Rishi Kapoor, Shatru). **Karishma** (Amitabh, Shashi, Sharmila). **Ek Du Teen Char** (Dev Anand, Rakhi, Dharmendra, Hema, Rishi Kapoor, Tina Munim, Vinod Khanna). **Desh Premi** (Amitabh, Prem Kumar, Shivaji Ganeshan, Sharmila Tagore, Vinod Khanna, Shatrughan Sinha). **Tuqat** (Vinod Khanna, Rakhi) **Lawaris**, **Shewa and Khuddar** (Amitabh). Luck is blindly favouring Parveen Babi these days. She was a disappointment in **Rangila Ratan** (opposite Rishi Kapoor), in **Duriada** (with Sunil Dutt and Feroz Khan). Her performance **Chalta Purza** (opposite Rajesh Khanna) was just passable, and yet film-makers are in a scramble to heap contracts upon her.

Capabilities apart, the vagaries and vacillations Parveen has exhibited in the past make the warm reception accorded to her all more enigmatic. Sanjay Khan is nursing his wounds and telling the woeful tale to this day of how he managed to complete **Chandi Sona** with Parveen Babi. Parveen has created more sensation with her romantic interludes with Dheev and Kabir than with her performance on the screen. Should a new Kabir enter her life [illegible] vacillating [illegible] Parveen [illegible]

Concern at horror films

New Delhi (IBS) - Members of the Lok Sabha expressed concern over the exhibition of horror films and demanded that the Government declare its policy against the import or production of such films.

Minister of Information and Broadcasting Lal Advani replied that the Government's guidelines in the matter were specific. "Pointless or avoidable scenes of violence, cruelty and horror should not be shown."

This, he said, was ensured by the specific action that do certified two controversial movies - "The Exorcist" (imported) and "Jadu Tona" (Hindi).

BRAJABULI (Bengali)

Story by Rupadarshi

Direction by Pijus Basu

Music by Late Nachiketa Ghosh

Production by Bharat Loka Silpa Mandir.

What an abysmal depth of degradation modern Bengali films in general have fallen into, can be gauged if one witnesses the recent release of **BRAJABULI (Braja's Bluff)** in different cinema houses. The story of the film centres round the life of an old clerk named Brajaraja Karforma who can talk most glibly. All his friends are young people upon whom he showers his unbounded flippancy at random. In fact, Brajaraja is a bluffer of the first water and whatever he says to his young friends from time to time as reminiscences of various activities of his remote past life, are sheer braggadocio. As soon as Brajaraja starts narrating some significant past episode of his life, it is dramatically presented through an elaborate flashback which is not only frivolous, but absurd and nonsensical as well.

Let me give some examples. One day Brajaraja brags to his young friends, to their utter surprise, how he defeated an all-India famous boxer. The man was a non-Bengali pugilist. One evening, after defeating several opponents in a public show, he threw an open challenge from the ring to all the boxers in India, but none dared to accept his challenge. Brajaraja was in the gallery of the spectators. His chivalrous spirit was roused. He accepted the challenge, entered the ring, defeated the challenger easily and became renowned overnight.

Another episode is about Brajaraja's position as a cricketer. Once in a thrilling match with M.C.C. held in Calcutta, Brajaraja played in the Indian side. With his sensational batting, he struck terror into the hearts of the Australian bowlers by pulling off boundary after boundary. One of his strokes was so severe and fantastic that the cricket ball did not come down at all on the ground and none could discern where it had fallen. The impact of Brajaraja's another stroke was so terrific that the ball was halved in mid-air; one half of it was caught by a player of the opponent team and the other half fell beyond boundary line. The situation then posed an historical problem in the domain of international cricket whether Brajaraja would be declared caught out or he would be granted an overboundary.

Brajaraja astonishes his young friends by telling them that once he was a very great actor, a formidable runner and a superclass Indian classical singer whose songs simply enchanted the rajahs and maharajahs of our country. Brajaraja's wife is fully aware of all these bluffs her husband indulges in. She tries to mend his ways, but to no avail.

Then one evening his wife helps him out of an embarrassing situation and makes her husband promise never to bluff again.

PARESH DHAR
Democratic World

Cricket team to U.K.

Jaipur (IBS) - India has been invited to participate in the tenth anniversary of the USSR Invitation Women's Hockey festival to be held in Moscow from August 18 to 21, according to Mrs. Reena Mukherji, President of the All India Women's Hockey Association.

Mrs. Mukherji said that due to a clash in dates with the World Cup Women's Hockey in Vancouver, Canada, from August 16, India would have to field two teams for the two tournaments. Thus, she said, the Moscow meet would provide enough opportunity to the young talent and those left out from the World Cup.

Women's hockey team for Moscow

Bangalore (IBS) - Sixty-one cricketers, including test stars - both past and present - and up-and-coming youngsters have been chosen prior to final selection of the team to represent India in the Prudential World Cup tournament to be played in England in June and thereafter a tour of that country. Releasing the list here, Cricket Control Board President M. Chinnaswamy said that only those who sign agreement forms sent to them through their respective associations would be considered for final selection.

One of the clauses in the agreement is that players would not play in any match not authorised by the Board in the next 12 months.

Hailing the "wonderful" job done by the selection committee headed by Polly Umrigar, a former Indian Captain, Chinnaswamy said the list included all the good players in the country.

Pension for sportsmen

Chandigarh (IBS) - The Punjab Government is understood to have granted life pension to five sportsmen of the State who had represented India in international meets in their heyday. The five are: Amar Singh (Sangrur), Gurdev Singh (Faridkot), Swarup Singh (Faridkot), Darshan Singh (Jullundur) and Sucha Singh (Anendpur Sahib).

INDIAN HORSES IN MOSCOW OLYMPICS

New Delhi (IBS) - Indian horses and riders are entering the 1980 Moscow Olympics for the first time ever.

Not that they can win a medal right away but at least they can gain experience for the next time.

And to help train and select a team for the arduous three-day Moscow event, an Italian Army Colonel, Giovanni Grignolo, has come to Delhi.

NORTH ZONE REGAIN TROPHY

New Delhi (IBS) North Zone regained the Duleep Trophy after a gap of four years here by virtue of their first innings 130-run lead over West Zone.

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS BEING MORE OR LESS CANADIAN

In our country, a Canadian is a *Canadian*, regardless of his or her background . . . regardless of whether they were born in Canada or immigrated here.
In Canada, we respect each person as an individual. We respect the individual's race, cultural roots, religious and spiritual values. Each Canadian benefits from sharing every other Canadian's talents, skills and contributions to Canadian life. That's what helps to make Canada a great country!
Your Canadian Government, through its permanent policy on Multiculturalism, creates and administers a wide variety of programs to encourage all Canadians to maintain their culture . . . and share it, *proudly*, with all other Canadians.

One of the roles of your Minister of Multiculturalism is to ensure equal opportunity, equal rights, for *all* Canadians, regardless of ethnicity or cultural background. Your Minister of Multiculturalism also helps ensure that the multicultural policy is carried out in all your Canadian Government's activities and programs, too. This makes Canada truly multicultural.
These continuing Canadian Government Multicultural programs champion the diversity of *all* Canadians and their equality. All Canadians are *equal*. There is no such thing as being more or less Canadian . . . thanks to our policy on Multiculturalism.

Multiculturalism
unity through human understanding

L'honorable Norman Cafik
Ministre d'Etat
Multiculturalisme

Honourable Norman Cafik
Minister of State
Multiculturalism

Foolin

Compliments of Gus M
M.P., Coordinator of Mi
tivities for the Progressive
servative Party.

LEDOR J. ZEK

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Election bot air at the
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By Barbara Kaday

Toronto, March 26 —
Persaud's black eye is a
reminder of a sudden and
attack by another passenger
Yonge subway train late
night.

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The victim's wife, Lynn
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Mr. Persaud was on h
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him on the train said:

Fooling the ethnics

Compliments of Gus Mitges, M.P., Co-ordinator of Multiculturalism for the Progressive Conservative Party.

LUBOR J. ZINK

Ottawa - One of the cliches of the sonorous rhetoric of multiculturalism is that the scheme for buying "ethnic" votes (which is what the grants of taxpayers' money to assorted folkdance ensembles, choirs and basket weaving groups really amounts to), expresses the government's determination to assure equal quality of citizenship to all Canadians regardless of their origin, mother tongue, accent, creed, color of skin and quaint traditions. With apology for the restriction of official languages to only two due to historical and practical reasons, multiculturalism is thus officially portrayed to "ethnic" audiences as the great equalizer and guarantor that whatever discrimination "new Canadians" may have experienced is a thing of the past, and that any feelings they may have of being second class citizens are groundless.

The latest gush of these cross-my-heart-and-hope-to-die assurances of non-discrimination was released from government cylinders of compressed pre-election hot air at the recent Baltic evening on Parliament Hill.

There was only one kind of Canadian citizenship, the Balts were told over and over again, and that was first class for everyone. The Trudeau government, as its multicultural policy documented, simply would not tolerate the slightest bias of any kind. Had there been a visitor from Mars listening to the ringing speeches after the copious free drink and free meal priming, I am sure he would have been moved to tears of joy by such perfection of equality and fraternity.

Unfortunately, everyday reality is somewhat less edifying. And I don't mean the countless petty discriminations everyone perpetrates virtually unconsciously every day in following personal, group and organizational biases (e.g., union, religious and tribal loyalties), but discrimination within the administrative structure of the very government which boasts of treating all citizens equally.

It goes without saying that this official discrimination is not on public display. It's tucked away in the inner folds of our bloated bureaucracy.

A hint of what's involved was dropped in the Commons last week by Frank Oberle, Tory MP for Prince George-Peace River. Rising on "a matter of urgent and pressing necessity" under the standing order 43, Mr. Oberle referred to a hitherto unknown directive which, he said, "came out of the office of the Solicitor General with respect to the security clearance of people in sensitive public positions." Mr. Oberle must have somehow obtained a copy of the secret document to be able to put this on the record: "A paragraph in the directive reads that no person can be cleared for such a position while he or she has close relatives living within the borders of such foreign nations as may cause subjection to intolerable pressures, or if he or she has recently resided in foreign countries where no check of activities is possible."

The point Oberle was making was that the directive was blatantly discriminatory because it automatically excluded about one third of Canadians from clearance for sensitive public positions. If true, this would be a direct contradiction, and indeed cynical mockery, of government assurances of equal treatment for all.

Oberle moved that the Solicitor General be required to rescind his directive immediately and assure the Commons that security clearances "will not be carried out along ethnic lines." Since the motion required unanimous consent and there were several "nos" on the government benches, the net result is a paragraph in Hansard for March 1 (page 3703).

As a rule that would be the end of an unprocessed "43" motion. It shouldn't be in this case. For regardless of what the security aspects of the secret directive may be - and they certainly should be examined - **Oberle has unearthed massive discrimination practised covertly by a regime which fools people with ringing rhetoric of scrupulous equality of citizenship** and defence of all conceivable human rights. It would be inexcusable for the media to ignore this new addition to the catalogue of the Trudeau government's lies and perfidies.

The whole thing should, of course, be of particular interest to the fooled "ethnic" groups whose press has ample space for exploring this inadvertised discriminatory reality of Trudeau's vote-buying multicultural sham.

[Toronto Sun]

NACOI takes up income tax fight

Ottawa, March 19. - Income tax authorities are being accused of discriminating against thousands of Canadian taxpayers.

The complaint, which results from a new interpretation of Section 109 of the Income Tax Act, is outlined in a letter to Revenue Minister A.C. Abbott from Navin Parekh, president of the National Association of Canadians of Origin in India.

According to Section 109 a deduction from income may be made for the support of dependents who do not reside in Canada, provided proof of support is permitted.

However a "tremendous hardship and harassment" is being experienced by a growing number of Indo-Canadians because of a new interpretation of the dependent status for non-resident dependents, writes Mr. Parekh.

"This interpretation is in conflict with the clear instructions contained in the tax guide...and, what is worse, Revenue Canada is applying this interpretation retroactive to 1974, demanding returns of exemptions already granted.

"This new interpretation discriminates between Canadian taxpayers on the basis of the country of residence of their dependents.

"A dependent is now being defined as a person whose income does not exceed approximately one-fifth of the per capita income of the country in which he/she resides.

'The National Revenue's interpretation allows an exemption of about **three dollars per month** for a dependent in poor countries whereas the corresponding exemption for a dependent in affluent countries is seventy dollars a month.

"Under this interpretation even this three dollar exemption is means-tested against vague and arbitrary criteria such as health, location, etc.

"The result would be to exclude virtually all non-resident dependents living in India and other third world countries from being considered as dependents for tax purposes.

"We consider this interpretation to be arbitrary, unjust, absurd discriminatory and an administrative nightmare.

"Its effect is to discriminate against thousands of Canadians with origins in poor countries of the third world."

Children introduced to Indian culture

By Hugh Adam

Ottawa: - Twenty Britannia-area children learned a new word Friday.

Namaste!

It means hello in Hindi - one of 14 official languages in India.

The children, registered in a March break culture program at the Old Forge Community Resource Centre, listened attentively as members from Ottawa's East Indian community taught them a variety of Hindi words and expressions.

Besides learning some Hindi vocabulary, the children were treated to East Indian cuisine, films on East Indian children and art, a dress exhibit and an ancient dance for the gods.

The two-hour presentation on East Indian culture wrapped up the three-day "Globe-Trotting Program," designed to teach the children about different cultures.

Besides a presentation on the Canadian Indian, the children learned about the people of Japan, Argentina and Trinidad-Tobago at the centre on Carling Avenue at Richmond Road.

Throughout Friday's presentation, Sarita Jindal and Prem Srivastava - members of Ottawa's East Indian community - were peppered with questions from their young audience.

The children wanted to know more about East Indian children, cuisine and the ancient dance for the gods performed by Laily Kant, 13, and her sister Gauri, 17.

"Are they wearing costumes or do they always dress like that?" asked one boy.

"Do you always move your neck like that when you dance?" asked another. "Don't you ever dance to disco?"

"What's that stuff you're frying?" asked eight-year-old Judy Mozersky when the children were taken into the kitchen to sample East Indian cuisine. She seemed surprised when she discovered the exotic-looking **pakora** tasted like onion rings.

Afterwards, Julie Frost, 13, said she learned a great deal by attending the East Indian culture program. "They dress differently and don't dance the same," she said. "Dancing seems to be a ceremonial thing to them."

Darlien Sauve, 11, remarked that she found the East Indians "very religious in everything they do."

Kim Moreau, 10, added she found out that East Indian children had a day of the child set aside every year while no such day exists in Canada.

Jeannie Holland, an Algonquin College social service student who co-ordinated the cultural program as a field work exercise, said she was pleased with the turnout.

"We hope the program helped them understand something about children they meet at school with different ethnic backgrounds," she said.

A spokesman for Ottawa Recreation said all March break programs at the various community centres in the city "were well-attended."

[The Ottawa Citizen].

Narmada going dry

Rewa, March 29 (UNI) - Experts are worried over the possibility of the Narmada going dry at its source -- and the religious believers say the doomsday is round the corner.

The origin of the river, described in legends as a virgin, is a "kund" (pond) in Amarkantak in the Vindhyas. The perennial water level of the pond has gone down by 91 cm over the last one decade. Experts say at this rate the pond would dry up in the next 15 years.

The pond draws water from the underground supply, which is believed to be dwindling because of ecological imbalance effected by large-scale deforestation and mining for bauxite in this region.

A Racist attack in Toronto

By Barbara Keddy

Toronto, March 26 - Bhaire Persaud's black eye is a painful reminder of a sudden and vicious attack by another passenger on a Yonge subway train late Friday night.

"I still think he's sick or something," Mr. Persaud said quietly of the white man who beat him because his skin is brown.

The victim's wife, Lynnette, is grateful that an off-duty Metro policeman and an army cadet came to her husband's aid, pulling the attacker away.

"He could have been knifed," Mrs. Persaud said yesterday, looking frightened. "In the United States people just stand by. I'm grateful someone helped him."

Mr. Persaud was on his way home at about 11:30 p.m. Friday when a man sitting across from him on the train said: "How come you people come to Canada?"

"My answer was 'I have a right to be in Canada just as much as anybody else,'" said Mr. Persaud, 33, who immigrated from Guyana nine years ago.

The next thing he knew the man came over and hit him, he said.

Sergeant John Wood of the Metro police said yesterday that he and Maury Lehman, a teenaged army cadet, jumped up and pulled the man away from Mr. Persaud, who was being "badly beaten."

An unidentified woman who said she was a nurse gave Mr. Persaud a handkerchief and helped him stop the bleeding from his face. Six stitches were needed to close a cut over his right eye. Yesterday the victim showed a reporter blood-stains on the jacket of the pinstriped suit he had been wearing.

Mr. Persaud said there will always be people like the one who attacked him Friday night. And he said he will be back at his job today in the Toronto Transit Commission's planning department.

Police have charged a 27-year-old man with assault causing bodily harm.

[The Globe and Mail].

Vajpayee on immigration issue

New Delhi (IBS) - External Affairs Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee informed the Rajya Sabha that India would insist on the British Goverament looking into the "wide discretionary powers" available to its immigration authorities in the name of medical test.

Vajpayee said that although medical tests were permitted under the rules, there was no provision under them to subject Indian women to a "virginity test" as had happened recently and for which the British Government had apologised following a strong protest lodged by India.

Pak poet to migrate to India

New Delhi, March 26 (UNI) - Renowned Pakistani poet, Josh Malihabadi, has expressed his desire to migrate to India.

Giving this information in the Rajya Sabha (Upper House) Minister of State for External Affairs said, the government came to know about this through a news item in a Pakistani newspaper.

The government has, however, not been approached in this regard.

Jain varsity in U.S.

New Delhi (IBS) - Jain Muni Sushil Kumar proposes to establish a Sanskrit Vidyapeeth in the United States along the lines of the Vidyapeeth in the Indian capital. He made the announcement at a reception to him and 25 of his foreign devotees.

Capital's marriage boom

New Delhi (IBS) - A stellar event still five months away has set off a marriage boom- estimated to be between 15 and 25 per cent - in the Indian Capital. The percentage may rise in the coming months before the 13-month inauspicious spell starts on August 29.

A priest explained that parents with sons and daughters of marriagable age were rushing things because "on August 29 Jupiter transits in Leo and stays there till September 26, 1980. When the sun is in a zodiac governed by Jupiter or when Jupiter is in Leo, the Priest (Jupiter) is busy with the King (Sun) and not free to bless the commoners' marriage. He, however, added that the common belief that whole of the 13-month period was inauspicious was erroneous.

Smeared Ink

Scholars on India meet

March 25 - The 31st Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) is scheduled to be held at the Los Angeles Hilton, Los Angeles, from March 29th to April 1st 1979.

The AAS is a prestigious, academically oriented, professional organization that supports high calibre scholarship in Asian Studies at universities and institutes of higher learning in the United States. Studies on India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka are supported by major U.S. foundations and PL 480 funds under the South Asian Studies program initiated by the AAS at several major Universities during the last three decades.

At a time when funding for projects on India is hard to come by, the AAs seeks to co-ordinate facilities and material for graduate students and teachers engaged in the pursuit of scholarship and excellence. The schools that have traditionally held strong academic programs in South Asian Studies, with an impressive output in terms of original research are: University of California at Berkeley, University of Texas at Austin, University of Chicago, Harvard University, Duke University, University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin, University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, University of Hawaii and California Institute for Asian Studies. There are six additional schools which also support South Asia Studies at a marginal level.

Members of the AAS have a distinguished record of scholarly achievement in Indian Art, Music, Anthropology, Sociology, Linguistics, Folklore, Philosophy, Literature, Education, Geography, and Political Science. During the 1960's these pioneering educators were responsible for preparing language study material (Grammars, study texts, and readers) for American students studying Indian languages. Romanization of script and transliteration of texts were accomplished in Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Gujarati, and Marathi. Specialized bibliographies and monographs of India have received special attention by AAS members. Audio visual material on Indian Art prepared by members of AAS is considered by most experts in the field, to be the finest available anywhere. Despite a purely intellectual bias, the AAS has succeeded in building an academic foundation for the study of India's culture in a elitist setting which in bound to have important ramifications for Indo-Americans.

The Los Angeles meeting will include an open forum to discuss "Strategies for Survival and Development of South Asian Studies during the 1980's". Major presentations on India include: Eastern Indian Art of the Pala Period, Patrimonial Politics in South Asia, Indian Agriculture, Quality of Life in South Asia, The Role of Song in Indian Culture, Social Institutions in Islam in South Asia, Sexual Separation in Ritual, Myth and Poetry, Teaching South Asia in the 1980's, and Quantitative approaches to South Asian Studies.

Francis Assisi

Vivekananda Society in B.C.

VIVEKANANDA VEDANTA SOCIETY OF B.C. has recently been registered as a non-profit educational/cultural society with the object of enlarging the knowledge of vedanta philosophy in this community. A nucleus of the same has, however been in existence since Swami Vividishanand ji of Ramakrishna Mission, Seattle gave a talk at Simon Fraser University in 1968. Since then, a core of meditation group meets every week on Wednesdays and some members visit Seattle Centre on week-ends.

For over a year Swami Bhaskarananda ji from Seattle Ramakrishna Mission has been giving discourses at Vishva Hindu Parishad (3885 Albert Street, Burnaby) once a month, but recently the Society has organised another public lecture by Swami ji at a community centre or local church. The first lecture was given on Christian God & Hindu God on November 17, 1978 at United Church of Canada, however such talks now are given generally at Trout Lake Community Centre (Victoria Drive at Grandview) in the 2nd/3rd week of the month. The new series of talks are on the Upanishads.

Das (president), Dr. A Freedman & N. Deo Mishra (Vice-presidents), Dr. DL Sharma (secretary), A Dit (treasurer) and the following directors: WA Hoare, Subhas Mukhopadhyaa, Mrs. Purabi Das, and Mrs. Raj Sharma.

N. Deo Mishra.

Immigrant settlement help cut

Thousands of immigrants are presently receiving help from community agencies to overcome their cultural and language barriers and gain access to government and community services.

There is an immediate danger, however, that these services will be greatly curtailed due to severe cutbacks and lack of a comprehensive policy on the part of the immigration authorities regarding immigrant services.

The Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI), representing 28 agencies across Ontario, is deeply concerned about the effects of these cutbacks. In the past year the Council has contacted the Provincial and the Federal governments to request changes of the present inadequate and discriminatory policies regarding the provision of immigration settlement and adaptation services.

This Council has recently written to the Minister of Employment and Immigration proposing that he reverse its present three year criteria for 1979/80, and that he take the initiative to call all levels of Government to develop a comprehensive policy on settlement and adaptation services.

Sikhs seek national group

March 26 - Representatives of Canada's estimated 150,000 Sikhs met in Toronto on the week-end to discuss setting up a national federation.

Five hundred people attended the conference, supported by Ontario and federal grants, to hear about the cultural and educational aims of Sikh communities across the country.

Among those invited were members of Italian, Greek, Polish and other minorities who have had to blend into the life style of their new country.

"Our main problem now is that we don't have any communications structure," said Jaswail Singh, chairman of the conference. "By communicating we will be able to strengthen our existence in Canada.

"We want to impart our heritage to our younger generations and unless we have a collective system, we can't do it."

Mr. Singh said many Canadians do not understand why Sikhs do not cut their hair (it is a feature of their religion), and why they cover their hair with a turban.

"There is hardly a community in the world that is as misunderstood as the Sikhs," he said. "We want to live in Canada as Sikhs. If we can't, I don't know what we will do."

[The Globe and Mail]

Our strength is in our differences.

We are a province of different peoples.

We each have our own customs, traditions, languages and cultural heritage.

These are the things that enrich and strengthen our society and help to make Ontario a better place in which to live.

In recognizing the multicultural nature of our province, the government of Ontario has adopted multiculturalism as its policy.

Equality For All

This official policy recognizes the equality of all members of our society. It ensures that everyone of us is protected against discrimination in employment opportunities, education, justice, recreation and other aspects which contribute to the quality of life in this province.

Services For Everyone

Ontario's multicultural policy ensures that every individual in our province has the opportunity to participate in the services and facilities offered by the government.

Appreciation of Cultural Differences

The Ontario policy also recognizes that cultural differences enrich our whole society when they are shared. To this end, the government encourages every individual to retain his or her own cultural heritage and language, and share their heritage with others.

For a booklet and more information on Ontario's multicultural policy write to:

Multicultural and Development Branch
Ministry of Culture and Recreation
77 Bloor Street, West, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9

Ontario

Reuben Baetz,
Minister of Culture and Recreation

William Davis, Premier

KITCHE

By Pranati Se

Since rising food costs are your menus to include mea costs. Your family will still Lentils, for example, are protein. Only a half cup o protein as 1 egg or 1 ounce cup serving of cottage chee replace a small serving of m protein per serving by ad (lentil soup). Today that sa lentil soup - is a favorite fa good hearty food. This lent cubes and must be homem skillet just briefly so that cooked lentil, tomatoes, c coriander leaves in a cas preparation hours in advan minutes before serving tim once. If any is left over, it any loss of quality, but sto around. By its nature th together in fairly large q another meal. You may re enjoy the leftover even mo

Dal [Lentil casserole]

2 cups (1 lb.) yellow split
4 tsp. salt or to taste
1 tsp. turmeric
1 bay leaf
3 qt. homogenized milk
cheese), chill and cut into
4 large cloves garlic, min
2 green or red chillies
3 med. onions finely chop
½ cup ghee or butter
2 tbsp. curry powder
¼ cup tomato paste
2 tsp. roasted cumin pow
3 to 4 tbsp. minced ginge
3 med. tomatoes, chopped
1 green pepper chopped
2 tsp. garam masala
1 tbsp. chopped coriande
8 to 10 cups boiling wate
½ tsp. sugar

Wash, clean and cook gen
leaf, covered, until tender
shape. Pour the dal to a l
frying pan and fry chees
plate. Fry onion, garlic in
curry powder, chillies, to
tomato. Pour this mixture
and stir lightly. Sprink
coriander leaves and sug
minutes. Serve with Cha

By George Mathew

New Delhi: With the decis
the Congress Working Comm
against unity with Mrs. I
Gandhi's Congress, all hope
a united congress under
leadership of Mrs. Gandh
provide an effective opposit
the ruling Janata party have
given up.

But for Mrs. Gandhi the
are not shut forever. She
that a number of congress
continued to meet her fo
"revival" of the talks and sh
not rule out the possibility
number of them joining her
ultimately if a formal unity
not forthcoming.

Within a week of the Con
Working Committee's dec
two Janata M.Ps (K. Rag
maiah, a former minister in
Gandhi's government an
Parthasarathy) joined the
gress (I), pledging "full su
and complete confidence"
leadership.

After two hours of deliber
the Congress President,
Swaran Singh, (himself a
unity enthusiast) told the
ing Committee that nothin
crete had emerged to
continuance of unity talks a
chapter on unity talks was c

Congressmen generally
med the announcement and
was a sigh of relief sinc
decision has averted anothe
in the congress party.
anti-unity group which w
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Mrs. Gandhi had already d

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(The Globe and Mail)

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5th Floor
2R9

uben Baetz,
nister of Culture
Recreation

lliam Davis, Premier

KITCHEN KORNER

By Pranati SenGupta

Since rising food costs are the topic of discussion these days, vary your menus to include meat alternates and you will help cut food costs. Your family will still get the protein they need in their diet. Lentils, for example, are one of the least expensive sources of protein. Only a half cup of cooked lentils provides about as much protein as 1 egg or 1 ounce of meat, fish or cheese. A three-quarter cup serving of cottage cheese boasts a high protein content and can replace a small serving of meat. So you may increase the amount of protein per serving by adding cottage cheese cubes in your dal (lentil soup). Today that same traditional dal – that is to say Indian lentil soup – is a favorite full course meal for those who appreciate good hearty food. This lentil recipe of mine calls for cottage cheese cubes and must be homemade. Fry chunks of cheese in a large skillet just briefly so that they hold their shape, then combine cooked lentil, tomatoes, cheese, robust seasonings and chopped coriander leaves in a casserole. You can assemble this lentil preparation hours in advance if you wish and refrigerate it until 30 minutes before serving time or you can prepare, bake and serve it at once. If any is left over, it can be heated again the next day without any loss of quality, but some people prefer it cold the second time around. By its nature this makes a very robust meal, best put together in fairly large quantities, and thus can be served for another meal. You may reduce the recipe in half but I think you will enjoy the leftover even more because this dish heats up beautifully.

Dal [Lentil casserole]

2 cups (1 lb.) yellow split-chickpeas (channeh dal) or split-peas
4 tsp. salt or to taste
1 tsp. turmeric
1 bay leaf
½ qt. homogenized milk, (prepare panir - Indian-style cottage cheese), chill and cut into cubes
4 large cloves garlic, minced
2 green or red chillies
3 med. onions finely chopped
½ cup ghee or butter
2 tbsp. curry powder
¼ cup tomato paste
2 tsp. roasted cumin powder
3 to 4 tbsp. minced ginger
3 med. tomatoes, chopped
1 green pepper chopped
2 tsp. garam massala
1 tbsp. chopped coriander leaves
8 to 10 cups boiling water
½ tsp. sugar

Wash, clean and cook gently lentils with water, salt, turmeric, bay leaf, covered, until tender but not puree. Lentils should retain their shape. Pour the dal to a large casserole dish. Heat ghee in a large frying pan and fry cheese cubes to light brown and remove to a plate. Fry onion, garlic in the same pan until onion is tender. Add curry powder, chillies, tomato paste, green pepper, ginger, and tomato. Pour this mixture over the dal. Now add fried cheese cubes and stir lightly. Sprinkle with roasted cumin, garam masala, coriander leaves and sugar. Cover and bake in 350F. oven for 30 minutes. Serve with Chapati (Indian bread). It's delicious.

BOOK-REVIEW

Hanky-panky in Punjab politics

By Jugpal S. Tiwana

Manju Verma: The Coalition Ministries in Punjab. Patiala, Sanu Sales, 1978, Rs. 30, P161.

Coalition government is a marriage of convenience, born out of sheer opportunism. Parties with opposing ideologies join hands with eyes on the loaves and fishes of office. The government falls when the ambitious men feel dissatisfied with their share of the meal or when the conflicts in the ideologies of the partners come to the breaking point.

Manju Verma's study in the **Coalition Ministries in Punjab** bears ample testimony to this fact.

Manju starts her study with the first coalition government in the erstwhile state of Pepsu, headed by Gian Singh Rarewala in 1952, and then progresses to the study of coalition governments of Gurnam Singh, L.S. Gill and P.S. Badal which were formed after the creation of Punjabi Suba in 1966.

Manju did not find much in the operation of the coalition ministries which could be boasted of; rather she is disillusioned with the way the elected men in the legislature conducted themselves. The chief ministers of the respective coalition governments manoeuvered defections from the opposition to secure a majority for their governments. Every time the defections took place, the ministries had to be expanded to accommodate newcomers. This frustrated the loyal party members who had been ignored. Now it was their turn to bargain with the men in the opposition. As Manju states: "The course of events which led to the exit of S. Gurnam Singh in Nov. 1967 almost faithfully repeated themselves in the case of the subsequent two coalitions under S. Gurnam Singh and S. Badal. The truth of the axiom that those who rise to power through defections also succumb to their fate through defections".

Manju also takes the Congress party in opposition to task for adopting all kinds of foul means in order to capture power again. The political immortality of the coalition parties was equally matched by that of the Congress. "It (the Congress government at the centre) had means both financial and political, "observes Manju," at its command to put pressure on the state government and also to dangle attractive offers before state ministers and their supporters to break the coalitions. Even men like S. Gurnam Singh and S. Parkash Singh Badal fell victims to the siren songs of the Congress leaders at the centre."

Manju, however, does not fail to take cognizance of one positive contribution of the coalition governments in Punjab. They helped to foster cordial relations among Hindus and Sikhs. The Jan Sangh and the Akalis who had been fanning the flames of communalism had now joined hands against their common foe, The Congress.

It becomes quite difficult to study and analyse the political events with impartiality and aloofness when you are so close to them. However, in this case, it can be asserted that Manju has done her task sincerely and honestly. She has been quite successful in viewing the muddled politics of Punjab from a distance.

The author did not simply rely on the stories as they appeared in the press; she tried to know what was happening in the inner political circles. She is perhaps right in her view that Darshan Singh Pheruman's fast unto death on the Chandigarh issue was actually a political gimmick, contrived by Kapur Singh to destroy the public image of Sant Fateh Singh. She also found out that the fall of the Congress government in Pepsu in 1952 was the brain work of Kartar Singh Dewana, a trusted lieutenant of Gian Singh Rarewala. Here the influence of the father-in-law, Prof. R.G. Verma, who was known for his close association with Rarewala quite pronounced. Manju makes no secret of it; she candidly admits it in the preface.

The book contains all the facts and figures of recent Punjab politics. Lists of the coalition ministries formed in Punjab since 1966 are given in the annexture. Those who are out in touch with Punjab politics in the last twelve years will find the book most useful and informative. Poor proof reading, however, sometimes spoils the taste of this otherwise carefully constructed book.

Unity talks dead

By George Mathew

New Delhi: With the decision of the Congress Working Committee against unity with Mrs. Indira Gandhi's Congress, all hopes for a united congress under the leadership of Mrs. Gandhi to provide an effective opposition to the ruling Janata party have been given up.

But for Mrs. Gandhi the doors are not shut forever. She said that a number of congress men continued to meet her for the "revival" of the talks and she did not rule out the possibility of a number of them joining her party ultimately if a formal unity was not forthcoming.

Within a week of the Congress Working Committee's decision, two Janata M.Ps (K. Raghuramaiah, a former minister in Mrs. Gandhi's government and P. Parthasarathy) joined the Congress (I), pledging "full support and complete confidence" in her leadership.

After two hours of deliberations, the Congress President, Mr. Swaran Singh, (himself a pro-unity enthusiast) told the Working Committee that nothing concrete had emerged to justify continuance of unity talks and the chapter on unity talks was closed.

Congressmen generally welcomed the announcement and there was a sigh of relief since the decision has averted another split in the congress party. The anti-unity group which was unwilling to surrender the party to Mrs. Gandhi had already decided to split the party and go ahead as the official congress.

The anti-unity group was led by the former Defence Minister, Y.B. Chavan, with active support of former Kerala Chief Minister, A.K. Antony, Hitendra Desai, Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, Bhahmananda Reddy (former congress president and home minister) and many other senior members.

The failure of the unity talks seems to be brewing dissention in the Congress (I) party. Accotding to a senior party worker Mrs. Gandhi was herself responsible for the failure of the talks. She insisted on being the President of the united congress to ensure political advantage for her. There was also fear that she might bring in her son, Mr. Sanjay Gandhi, into politics at a later stage to the discomfiture of many who are still critical of his actions and yet keep their loyalty to Mrs. Gandhi.

Events of the last couple of months would indicate that Mrs. Gandhi's Congress (I) is losing ground. The party has not been able to organise any show of strength highlighting the failure of the Janata government. Some efforts on its part to highlight the high rate of urban taxation in the budget, growing lawlessness and atrocities on Harijans did not bring about the desired effect.

Mrs. Gandhi's tour of the country and her re-visit of Chickmangalur from where she was elected did not cary much attention except in some areas where her party is in power. Her re-election to the Lok Sabha immediately after her expulsion on a charge of breach of the privilege which appeared imminent at that time is not being talked about at present.

The dialogue for the unity talks to merge the two congress parties was initiated when Mrs. Gandhi actually staged a political comeback after her resounding victory from the Chickmangalur constituency in Karnataka. There was even speculation that she would soon capture power at the centre and that a number of M.Ps may cross the floor. Her party's victory in the Azamgarh (U.P.) by-election defeating the Janata candidate added colour to the process of regaining lost popularity. She thought she would soon be able to take full advantage in the legal battles that she and her son were involved after her overthrow from the government.

Mrs. Gandhi was keen and she is keen even now for a unity with the congress and she is willing to admit anyone to her party. But she is not willing to surrender her supreme leadership of the party and demand "total loyalty" to her from her partymen for she knows only too well that that is the only straw on which she could cling to in order to ensure her political future. She also seems to believe that such a position would give her some edge in the legal cases that are pending against her and in cases that may now come before the special courts to be set up for fighting it

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Suitable match wanted for slim, very beautiful Panjabi Brahmin girl; 22, height 5'-4", B.A. (Panjab), presently teaching in an English school in India. Uncles well settled in Canada. Marriage can be arranged in India or Canada. Only suitable Canadian citizens or landed immigrants need apply giving full details in first instance. M-1536, The Canadian India Times.

30 yrs. old Indian Muslim medical doctor doing residency invites correspondence from pretty, eligible girls between 20-30 yrs. doctors and paramedicals preferred. Reply M-1537, The Canadian India Times.

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Brother, Canadian citizen, invites correspondence from established professionals in Canada/USA/India for his slim, fair-complexioned and sweet natured sister, 28, 5'-4", M.A.B.Ed presently teaching in Panjab. Sikh Aroara family. Reply M-1540, The Canadian India Times.

Wanted a well settled, well educated Tamil Brahmin boy for a beautiful, 26 year old MBBS doctor in India. Please send full details to M-1545, The Canadian India Times.

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